

Madrid peace talks make history

Israelis meet Palestinians face-to-face

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN MADRID AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAELI and Palestinian delegates held face-to-face talks in Madrid yesterday in the first historic talks between the ancient enemies since the Middle East war of 1967.

The two sides met as part of the second stage of the Middle East peace conference in bilateral talks between the Israeli and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian teams.

The meeting followed a morning of diplomatic brinkmanship as the Syrians failed to appear for talks with Israeli delegates and the dispute over where the second-stage talks should be held dragged on. Those attending the negotiations between the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian teams gave upbeat assessments of the progress that had been made, and the Palestinians appeared to have improved their negotiating status by winning approval for two-track talks.

The joint statement issued by the delegates said that four hours of talks had been held "in a good, businesslike atmosphere. Matters discussed involved procedure in the [further] talks which, it is hoped, will take place soon."

Consultations will continue about the venue and about other matters.

Elakim Rubinstein, who led the Israeli delegation, said that the teams had agreed to a two-track approach, one dealing with Israeli-Jordanian issues and the other covering Israeli-Palestinian questions.

The decision by the Jordanians and Palestinians to go ahead with the second stage of the conference defied Syrian attempts to dissuade them from talking to the Israeli team and left Arab unity at the conference in tatters.

The Syrian team had been due to hold negotiations with Israeli delegates yesterday morning but, to the dismay of the Israelis and the American co-sponsors of the conference, they failed to turn up.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, said: "Frankly, we are dumbfounded and dismayed by this apparent intransigence and inflexibility."

Another Israeli spokesman said that the Syrians had "from the outset demonstrated an unwillingness to meet us halfway".

but Syria insists that they should continue in Spain. Two venues in America - Washington and Williamsburg, Virginia - and Rhodes were discussed as possible alternatives.

Farouk al-Sharaa, Syria's hardline foreign minister, was criticised by other Arabs in Madrid for a clumsy negotiating style that did not match the dignified performances of the Palestinians and Jordanians, who have won a number of influential American friends.

Syria and Lebanon insisted that they would only join face-to-face talks with Israel if they were devoted to the substance of the peace process. Israel countered that its team would only attend a one-off session of the second phase if it dealt exclusively with where the talks would continue.

The Israeli-Syrian dispute, characterised by Syria's broken pledge to attend talks yesterday morning and a further exchange of public insults, overshadowed the fact that the meeting between Israel and the Arabs went ahead as planned at Madrid's Parcen Palace.

The historic talks were aimed at drawing up a scheme for interim Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which have been occupied since 1967 and which are now the scene of a violent uprising against Israeli military rule. A spokesman Continued on page 22, col 1



Old flame: Rawlston 46, one of the last two Kuwaiti oil wells still to be extinguished, blazing fiercely after a Canadian team decided on Saturday that it faced more trouble than expected, with a deep pool of ground oil and fickle winds

feeding the flames. More than 730 of Kuwait's 940 wells were damaged by the Iraqi invaders, including 640 set ablaze. At first, Kuwaitis estimated it would take until March to cap all the wells, but a rapid increase in the number of teams and experience gained by firefighters raised the capping rate from one every four days in March to about one a day. An ingenious Hungarian team has even been having some success using jet engines mounted on an old Soviet tank to blow out the flames.

Blockade of the city. "It is so slow terror... they want people to leave, then they will re-populate Dubrovnik with Serbs."

Dubrovnik radio sends out dramatic SOS to Europe

Sirens wailed here yesterday as Dubrovnik radio broadcast a dramatic message ending with the words: "This is the hardest night Dubrovnik has ever known. SOS Croatia! SOS Europe!"

The bombardment by the army must be deliberately intended to terrorise the citizens, reports Tim Judah

blockade of the city. "It is so slow terror... they want people to leave, then they will re-populate Dubrovnik with Serbs."

The ancient walled town endured the worst weekend of shelling it has known since it was besieged by the Yugoslav army at the beginning of October. Above the Adriatic, in plate-glass hotels which in happier times housed sun-seeking tourists, refugees ducked shrapnel and flying glass and wandered in fear where to flee next.

In the town, buildings shook as sporadic shells exploded and people ran for cover as machinegun fire crackled over streets only half a mile from army positions.

On the peninsula of Babin Kuk, two miles from the centre of town, almost 1,500 bewildered and terrified refugees from areas which have fallen to the army pondered their fate after the hotels where they are staying became the target on Saturday night of army mortars and artillery and shells from naval patrol boats.

It was not clear why the shelling began, but it appears to be part of a deliberate campaign to terrorise residents and refugees in a town which has been without electricity, running water and fresh food for a month. While

Croatian national guardsmen did return fire, they are overwhelmingly outgunned and outmanoeuvred by the Yugoslav army whose forward positions can be seen on hills around.

During the height of the attack mortars, artillery and tank fire could be seen flashing from the hills and pink tracer streaked into the starlit night.

The glow of fires could be seen coming from new untraceable suburbs believed to have been pummelled mercilessly, while some shells fell in residential areas close to the centre of town.

Only 500 yards from the two refugee hotels is the seafront Hotel Neptun, reputed to be the local headquarters of the Croatian national guard. It was not damaged by the barrage. Anne Radic, deputy manager of the Plakir Hotel, said: "There were no soldiers around here, but if there was one place that you would have thought should have got it, it should have been the Neptun. This is a really dirty game."

At the Neptun, a Croatian guardsman said: "They could Continued on page 22, col 4

One also hit Dubrovnik's vital main bakery, but workers clearing the site said that it had not been put out of action. There were no reports of damage from the historic walled old city. According to information from Dubrovnik hospital seven people were injured during the main Saturday-night barrage, but there were no reports of deaths.

"The aim is not to kill," said Slobodan Lang, a leading Croatian human rights activist and a leader of 29 boats which broke through the naval

blockade of the city. "It is so slow terror... they want people to leave, then they will re-populate Dubrovnik with Serbs."

blockade of the city. "It is so slow terror... they want people to leave, then they will re-populate Dubrovnik with Serbs."

Tories aim at post-Budget election and look to April 9

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE Party strategists are planning a campaign of three to four weeks. The next five months are certain to be dominated by electioneering, with Labour, as it has done this year, striving constantly to close down Mr Major's options.

Conservative MPs believe that Labour would be quick to revive the dithering charge were the prime minister to delay long after the Budget. Instead they believe it would be better for him to use it as a launching pad for the election campaign.

The legislative programme has been kept tight to leave Mr Major the maximum flexibility from the beginning of March when, Tory strategists

believe, the council tax legislation will have gone through Parliament. Much of the remainder of the programme might fall, to be revived in the next Parliament if the Tories win.

May 7 is favoured by some senior Conservatives because the Conservative election machine will have been geared up for that date throughout the year for the local elections. Some see disadvantage in the fact that if May 7 is chosen the campaign would be interrupted by the Easter holiday.

Many senior Conservatives hope that Mr Major will not go beyond that date. One factor they fear is the revival in the Liberal Democrat vote, which usually occurs at the time of local elections.

Although the prime minister has said publicly that he is prepared to go on until next summer if necessary, MPs close to him know that he has been keen for some time to win his own mandate. Had the electoral portents looked more favourable he would almost certainly have chosen this June or the autumn.

Source	Leader
NOP Oct 4-5	Labour 7pt
ICM Oct 11-12	Labour 2pt
Harris Oct 15-17	Labour 7pt
MORI Oct 18-21	Labour 6pt
ICM Oct 22-25	Labour 2pt
MORI Nov 1	Tories 1pt

TODAY IN THE TIMES

THE MEN'S VIEW



"Women need to have children and bring them up. They need to count on a man..." In the light of the prime minister's Opportunity 2000 initiative on women, Roger Scruton was among the men, young and old, who were asked by *The Times* for their views on the opposite sex. Today, in full measure, they give them Page 15

TRYING HARDER



Kalpana Mehta has been teaching for five years and cannot afford a mortgage. How does she feel about performance-related pay? Page 35

LONG RUNNER



Liz McColgan, Britain's only gold medalist in Tokyo, marked her marathon debut in New York yesterday with a magnificent victory Page 43

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Automatic guillotine urged for major bills

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for automatic time limits on the consideration of all key legislation are to be made tomorrow by John MacGregor, the Leader of the House of Commons.

Against the opposition of some ministerial colleagues, Mr MacGregor will argue that the important bills should be "timetabled" with the length of discussion stipulated in advance for the detailed committee and report stages. It would effectively mean the end of filibustering, the centuries-old technique used by oppositions for delaying the progress of legislation by speaking sometimes for hours on inconsequential matters.

In a submission to a select

committee of senior MPs studying reform of parliamentary hours and business, Mr MacGregor will argue that it is a better use of MPs' time to be engaged in sensible, time-limited debate. He will be opposed by MPs on both sides of the Commons who will say that his proposal would deny opposition parties an essential parliamentary weapon.

Mr MacGregor, however, will point out that the growth in the number of guillotine motions under both Labour and Conservative governments means that this weapon has become less valuable over the years. Mr MacGregor is to appear before the select com-

Continued on page 22, col 8

Delays leave BR losing its grip on autumn

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JUST as the call of the first cuckoo signifies the coming of spring, so the fall of the first autumn leaf has become synonymous with the partial paralysis of British Rail.

Passengers using BR services in the Pennines, East Anglia and Kent, are each claiming to be the first to be affected by the phenomenon this year, after a combination of high winds and heavy rains led to a build-up of wet leaves on the tracks, causing havoc to local weekend rail services.

On one service between Sevenoaks and London, passengers held up for 30 minutes because of leaves on the line abandoned their carriages and made their way along the tracks to the next

station at Tunbridge, accompanied by an irate guard shouting at them to return to their seats, and threatening legal action for trespassing on BR property.

Fallen leaves crushed by trains form a thick mush that reduces grip on the tracks. As it accumulates, train wheels spin, making it difficult to accelerate, and often causing serious damage to rolling stock. As a result, BR may be forced to halt trains in mid-journey until the mush has been removed.

The threat is particularly acute with modern trains, including the new Class 158, because they have new high-tech disc brakes which do not scrape leaves off the wheels. By contrast, older trains fitted with block brakes are highly effective in burning off leaf deposits.

Armed with the latest £260,000 experimental track-scrubbing train, BR en-

gineers had hoped to gain the upper hand in this year's autumn leaf offensive. But as the first troublesome leaves were recorded as falling in the Pennines, Cambridgeshire and around Sevenoaks, the track-scrubber was last seen heading off towards Basingstoke.

BR has relied traditionally on its fleet of leaf-busting trains, which deposit a sand-impregnated paste on the tracks, providing trains with the extra friction they need to accelerate. It is an unfortunate facet of this technique that it is effective only in prolonged dry spells.

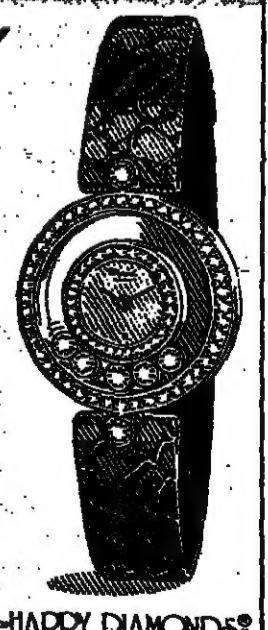
But if the first autumn leaf has become synonymous with the partial paralysis of BR, passengers now appreciate that it is no more than a dress rehearsal for the first serious snowfall - at which point the paralysis of the national rail network will become complete.

Wet leaves on the line again



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Lloyd's syndicate meets to consider 'unfair recruitment'



David Coleridge, one of 4,000 names affected

TWO hundred members of the biggest marine syndicate at Lloyd's met at Chelsea town hall today to discuss allegations that the syndicate unfairly recruited names in the 1980s to spread the burden of its huge pollution losses.

The names, who were all placed on the Merrett marine syndicate 418 between 1983 and 1985, face average losses to date of about £16,000, though these are expected to rise as further pollution claims are paid out by the syndicate.

About 4,000 names are affected by the losses, which have resulted in the 1985 year of account being left open.

The names include David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's, Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign

Lloyd's chairman and a Foreign Office minister are among names named in a dispute about a syndicate's losses. Jonathan Prynn reports

Office minister, Roger Seelie, the former Morgan Grenfell corporate financier, Sir Anthony Pilkington, the chairman of the press company, Sir Peter Ripka, the hotelier, John Sedgwick, the property developer, the estate of the late Lord Soames, the former Conservative cabinet minister, as well as Mr Coleridge's wife Susan, and their son Nicholas, the high society journalist.

In 1982 the syndicate underwrote 11 "run-off" policies similar to those that resulted in the losses for the Outhwaite syndicate, which is

now the subject of a High Court legal action.

However, unlike Mr Outhwaite, Stephen Merrett, the underwriter of 418, closed the 1982 year in the normal way.

By 1987 the size of the losses resulting from the run-off policies forced Mr Merrett to leave the 1985 year open. Total losses by the end of 1990 were £65 million or 49 per cent of the money put up.

Market estimates suggest that a further 35 per cent payout may be needed to close the year.

Ken Lavery, a Canadian name who has organised today's meeting, has alleged in a letter to Lloyd's that the 2,089 names who were recruited by 418 in 1983, 1984 and 1985 were "deceived" by Mr Merrett, who judged, in his report on the 1982 account that "we have determined an appropriate level of reserve".

According to Mr Lavery, if the 1982 year had been left open, the loss would have been 111 per cent or £40,830 per name rather than the actual figure of 9.5 per cent or £3,481.

In his letter to Lloyd's he wrote: "When you review the list of the 1,959 names (1982) helped by the newly recruited and deceived 2,089 names (1983 to 1985) you find many familiar names ... five

members of the 1990 Council of Lloyd's appear in this group, including the current chairman. I am only pointing this out to show how very difficult it is to find disinterested people to deal objectively and fairly with these issues."

Mr Lavery also claims that although the size of the syndicate increased by 83 per cent, in terms the number of names, over the 1982 to 1985 period the business it did increased only marginally — by just 1 per cent.

Today's inaugural meeting of the Merrett Syndicate 418 (1985) Names Association is expected to appoint a steering committee and legal advisers, and seek leading counsel's opinion on the possibility of legal action.



Garel-Jones, part of marine syndicate 418

IRA seeks to justify hospital bombing

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA yesterday attempted to defend its bombing of the military wing of a south Belfast hospital on Saturday, which killed two soldiers and injured ten people, including a girl aged five.

In an unusual second statement after its initial claim of responsibility on Saturday, the IRA said it wanted to state categorically that its intended target was not Musgrave Park Hospital itself, but what it called the British army base adjacent to it.

The statement disclosed that those who placed the bomb "gained access to a restricted military zone within the army base... then placed a substantial device in a bar used exclusively by military personnel."

The IRA statement followed condemnation, led yesterday by Richard Needham, economy minister at the Northern Ireland Office, of the first bombing of a hospital in the history of the troubles.

Mr Needham said the IRA carried the Semtex device, estimated at 20lb, through a children's ward before placing it in an underground corridor linking the military and civilian sections. "Where that bomb was placed was inevitably going to do extreme damage to the civilian side. That really is sinking to the pits," he said.

Mr Needham, speaking as a major review of security at the hospital began, acknowledged a breach had occurred. Military sources doubted, however, the IRA's claim to have cut through doors into the military wing itself, suggesting the bomb was left against the doors at the far end of the

tunnel. The explosion, which happened on Saturday afternoon, devastated the building, shattering walls and ceilings and blowing out windows. A concrete staircase collapsed and the dead and injured had to be dug out of the rubble.

The two soldiers who died, a driver and a paramedic, were thought to have been watching the world cup rugby when the device exploded.

They were part of the military staff at Musgrave Park, where army and police casualties are treated for physical and psychological injuries received during service in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday five of the ten survivors were allowed home. Of those still in hospital, one soldier is on a life support machine, and another seriously ill. Two others were comfortable.

Susan Nicholls, aged five, the daughter of one of the surviving soldiers, who received cuts and burns, is expected to make a full recovery.

Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey, the commanding officer in Northern Ireland, denied there had been a failure of security at the complex.

Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, is to make a full statement on the bombing in the Commons tomorrow.

An enquiry into the shooting of a youth named by neighbours as Gerald McGinn, aged 17, of Springfield Road, Belfast, whose body was found in a stolen car in West Belfast, is to be headed by a senior officer, the RUC said last night. Police are thought to have shot at the car during a chase early yesterday.

Four young brothers die in blazing house

POLICE were yesterday trying to discover the cause of a house fire which killed four young brothers. The boys were trapped in a bedroom in spite of desperate attempts to save them by their parents and neighbours.

The dead children were Damon Thomas, aged five, Daniel, three, and nine-month-old twins Joshua and Joseph, of Bon-y-maen, Swansea, south Wales.

Their sister Sarah, aged six, and their parents were saved by firemen who wore breathing apparatus to fight their way through thick black smoke.

Yesterday Charlotte Thomas held her only surviving child in her arms, took her for a walk along the wind-swept road and told her that her four brothers were dead. She said: "There is only you now."

Mrs Thomas said: "I just cannot describe what I feel. I used to be the mother of five, now there is only Sarah. My four boys have gone. I don't know what caused it. They seem to think it started in the roof. I don't know."

Earlier Mrs Thomas had gone back into the blackened semi-detached house to fetch Sarah some fresh clothes and a picture of the twin boys. But police would not let her go back into the house again, fearing that it would be too distressing for her.

Fire officers found the four boys in the front bedroom of the house, but they were dead on arrival at hospital.

A neighbour, Sarah Mort, aged 15, ran into the house with the children's father in an attempt to save the boys.

Yesterday she said: "We heard screaming. We ran upstairs but we couldn't see



Sad survivors: Charlotte Thomas with Sarah, the only one of her children saved

anything for the smoke. We ran down again and were screaming for the older boy because we thought he was the only one who could wake the kids up."

Friends and neighbours rushed to comfort Mrs Thomas as she stood in the rain, sobbing for her lost children and crying: "Why, why have they gone?"

South Wales police forensic science officers were yesterday carrying out a detailed

examination of the scene to try to find the cause of the blaze.

Chief Inspector Walter Morris said: "The parents tried to reach the children but were forced back by the smoke. It's a tragedy for the family. Firemen who attended at the scene were terribly upset by the deaths of the boys."

Mrs Hazel Rand, who lives next door, said: "It's just terrible. All the boys were lovely."



Sarah Mort: "We could not see anything"

Ministers damp down spending speculation

By NICOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR ministers acted yesterday to damp down speculation that the government is about to embark on a pre-election spending spree.

The moves came in the wake of weekend reports that Norman Lamont, the chancellor, will announce an extra £10 billion in spending next year when he delivers his autumn statement on Wednesday.

In a move clearly aimed at calming the markets, highly placed Treasury sources insisted that such figures exaggerated the true extent of the planned spending boost.

"There is nothing here that can be called a spending spree," said one ministerial source.

It is understood that David Mellor, the chief secretary to the Treasury, has succeeded in paring back bids for an extra £15 billion to around £6.5 billion above the updated planning total of £221 billion.

Some £6 billion of the new money has been soaked up by unavoidable increases in social security payments and higher contributions to the European Community.

However, by juggling with the contingency reserve, Mr Mellor has been able to find significant amounts for the politically sensitive areas of health and transport.

The prime minister recognises that with the public highly distrustful of the Conservatives' intentions towards the NHS, he needs to demonstrate his commitment to the service with hard cash.

One minister said that Mr Lamont would do nothing to jeopardise his reputation for financial prudence, built up by his cautious approach to interest rate cuts.

The insiders insisted that while the Treasury had done all it could to sustain existing spending commitments, discretionary bids had been subjected to the closest scrutiny.

Reacting to the weekend reports, Labour readied itself to denounce what senior party sources saw as the beginnings of an electoral bribe.

Campaign offers MP a free bill

A ready-made Freedom of Information Bill is on offer to any MP successful in the Private Members' Bill ballot on Thursday (Robin Oakley writes).

The bill is published today by the Freedom of Information Campaign, which has succeeded in placing a number of measures on the statute book in recent years.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are committed to introducing a freedom of information bill if elected to government, and a recent opinion poll found 75 per cent of Conservatives in support of such a measure.

The campaign's bill would apply to records held by government departments, nationalised industries, government advisory bodies, agencies, health authorities and any other body that received at least half its funds from central government or to whom ministers appointed one or more members.

Information could be withheld if it would cause "significant damage" to defence, international relations, law enforcement, the work of the security services, or the commercial activities of a "public" authority or "third party".

Secrecy attack

Details of Channel tunnel safety have been shrouded in "unprecedented and overwhelming secrecy", and must be discussed in the open, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Derek Prentice, head of campaigning, said: "The consequences of a wrong decision on safety would be too grave to contemplate." He called for Eurotunnel to publish more information about operating rules.

Fair and square

Derek Oldbury, aged 67, yesterday became the first British world draughts champion since 1839 when he beat the American Richard Hallett 7-4 in a tense final at Weston-super-Mare. Mr Oldbury, of Torquay, Devon, has played since he was a teenager and has been one of Britain's top players for 36 years. He edits a draughts magazine and says the secret of his success is to think up to 30 moves ahead.

Songwriter dies

Mort Shuman, the American singer and songwriter, who wrote hits for stars such as Elvis Presley, the Drifters and the Small Faces, died early yesterday in London. He was 52. No cause of death was given but Mr Shuman had a liver operation last spring and returned to hospital two weeks ago. The hits he wrote for Presley, with Jerome "Doc" Pomus, included *His Latest Flame* and *Little Sister*.

Fishing choice

Jeanette Taylor, an angler from Northamptonshire, has become the first woman to be called up for the full England trout team with her selection to fish the Commonwealth championship in New Zealand on Thursday and Friday. Her selection comes after several successful seasons. "I've always been consistent and I honestly think I've earned my place," she said.



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Ashdown tells EC not to meddle

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, yesterday gave a subtle new shade to Liberal Democrat policy by urging the central institutions of the European Community not to meddle in things which did not concern them and not to create a bureaucracy's Europe which nobody wanted.

Addressing the conference of the Free Democratic party in Subi, Thuringia, Mr Ashdown urged Germans not to despair of Britain and its attitude to Europe from what they saw of Westminster politics, calling Parliament "unrepresentative of the country as a whole".

The people of Britain, he said, were ahead of their politicians and wanted to be part of the new Europe. But the Liberal Democrat leader, conscious that his party's enthusiastic Europeanism could be costing it support, set out Liberal Democrat reservations as well as repudiating his party to a single European currency, an independent European central bank and a common foreign and defence policy.

Mr Ashdown also complained of "a distressing tendency for the Brussels Commission to interfere directly in the way our citizens and communities organise their lives", warning that this could build up popular resentment.

order offences and one for threatening behaviour. About 150 members of Saracens rugby club in north London were among the 62,500 crowd. Roger Phillips, a committee member, said: "The result was disappointing, but everyone accepted it was a good game and there was a happy atmosphere."

Glenn Evans, a barman at the Prince of Teck public house in Earl's Court, London, where hundreds of Australians gathered to watch the game, said: "The crowd was so huge the police had to shut off a road outside."

Just six arrests were made at the ground, including three hot dog salesmen outside the ground who were arrested after police tried to move them on. Two people were arrested for drunk and dis-

Millions help to set rugby record

By PETER VICTOR

MORE than one million spectators were attracted to matches in the month-long rugby world cup tournament, while about two billion watched it on television, organisers said yesterday.

The final, watched by an estimated British television audience of 12 million, produced the first £1 million gate in the history of the game.

Russ Thomas, organisers' chairman, said:

Just six arrests were made at the ground, including three hot dog salesmen outside the ground who were arrested after police tried to move them on. Two people were arrested for drunk and dis-

Fireworks at show's naked effrontery

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE Gunpowder plot conspirators would no doubt be surprised to learn what modern celebrations take place to mark the failure of their effort to blow up the House of Lords.

At least fireworks displays and the burning of an effigy of Guy Fawkes have some kind of logic behind them. However, links between a video show of naked couples embracing and a tale of a Catholic conspiracy to kill a Stuart king and reintroduce the true faith left residents of Maidstone, Kent, bewildered and outraged at the weekend.

They had come to see a fireworks

extravaganza, Sparks in the Dark, billed as a family outing, but just before the display started were confronted by a video display by Emergency Exit Arts, a Greenwich-based community theatre company, including a couple embracing and part of a woman's breast.

A police spokesman said: "We stepped in after there were numerous complaints made to officers about the video show. Equipment was seized and we are now studying the material to see if any charges should be brought."

Graham Bedford, director of Maidstone council's leisure department, said:

"Emergency Exit Arts has a good reputation and is extensively subsidised by the Arts Council. We had no idea that the show would contain material offensive to parents. We got more than we bargained for."

The theatre company maintains that the shot most people objected to was sensual rather than offensive. A spokesman for the company, which performs in schools and community centres, said that the play was about good triumphing over evil. "We have been performing for ten years and have never come across anything like this before."

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Sister Superior

MPs support father demanding the truth behind fatal parachute fall

Ministry accused of cover-up over death of marine

By Tony Dawe

MOUNTING criticism is being levelled at the defence ministry over its refusal to tell the parents of a Royal Marine killed in a training accident, the full circumstances surrounding his death.

In the latest of a series of obstructive moves, the ministry has won a court injunction to prevent the father, Russell Ferrante, a Bristol greengrocer, from disclosing the few documents he had been given about the accident.

The ministry acted in an attempt to thwart the BBC Radio programme, *Face the Facts*, from investigating the case. The programme went ahead without the documents and yesterday MPs accused the MoD of drawing "an unnecessary veil of secrecy" over an accident which has no bearing on national security.

Mr Ferrante's son Simeon died not on a top secret training exercise but on an RAF parachute course at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, in August 1989. He was 21 at the time. The reason for the secrecy, say the MPs, is that three days before the fatal jump the marine hit his head in a heavy landing on a previous jump, yet was told to carry on training after seeing a doctor.

"Mr Ferrante is owed a clear explanation of what happened," Jonathan Sayed, Mr Ferrante's constituency MP in Bristol East, said. "A climate of secrecy pervades the whole society of the MoD."

Michael Mates, chairman of the Commons defence select committee, told *The Times*: "The way the MoD allows people to be misled is quite wrong. It has been happening

more and more since the Falklands war. The ministry has everything to gain in winning public confidence by coming clean."

Mr Mates believes it is essential for the ministry's own enquiries into accidents to be held in secret but adds that the conclusions should be made known to relatives.

The MPs are particularly disturbed by the Ferrante case because of the way they say the ministry attempted to "cover up" the first accident. The father was never told about it by officers and only learnt of it from his son's fellow marines.

They told him that Simeon's head "had" rocked back and hit the ground hard as he landed from a parachute jump on Monday, August 7, 1989. He was sent to a doctor at RAF Brize Norton but returned to lectures in the afternoon where he was sick continually.

He later slept for more than 12 hours but despite his sickness and drowsiness, both



Simeon Ferrante: died after second fall

signs that he could have suffered a serious head injury, he carried on training and made two more jumps on Thursday, August 10. On the second jump, he hit his head again and after removing some of his kit and complaining of back pains he fell into a coma and never recovered consciousness.

Mr Ferrante said that he had wanted to believe that his son's death was an unavoidable accident but the more marines he questioned the more "horrible" the story became. When he tried to get at the truth, he says RAF officers initially denied the first injury had occurred and then said his son had received medical attention.

"A wing commander told me I was 'exceeding my remit' and it would not 'bring my son back'," Mr Ferrante said yesterday. "Once I had learnt about the first injury, I had expected them to tell me exactly what happened and what they were doing to prevent a similar tragedy."

He said that he and his wife Janet hoped that a long-awaited visit by two senior RAF officers was going to be "a day when we would not have to do any more letter writing. It would all be explained to us and we could rest properly."

"I started to ask them the questions and when I got to about the third question all they would say was 'sub judice, we can't answer it because of sub judice'."

Mr Ferrante had kept tablets given to his son by a medical officer. They were among belongings returned to him after the fatal accident.



Father and son: Russell Ferrante relaxes with his son Simeon shortly before the fatal incident

He says the RAF officers who visited him were "astounded" to see the tablets.

A verdict of accidental death caused by a serious injury on his last parachute jump was recorded on Simeon Ferrante at an inquest in June last year. The coroner heard evidence from the flight lieutenant in charge of the parachute course that he was unaware that sickness could be symptomatic of a serious head injury.

The marine's father remained dissatisfied with the inquest and continued his search for the full truth, eventually winning a court

order in June this year to force the MoD to hand over his son's medical records, its standard procedures concerning parachute accidents and details of its own enquiry into Simeon's death.

It was those documents that were made the subject of a court injunction at the MoD's request last week.

Mr Ferrante is determined, however, to continue to seek the full truth of what happened to his son. He is suing the MoD for negligence in allowing his son to carry on jumping when unfit to do so.



Sad end: a grieving father visiting his son's grave

Leading article, page 17

Proud of the green beret

SIMEON Ferrante's family shared in his pride and pleasure at being a Royal Marine. His father, Russell, recalls the family celebration that followed Simeon's achievement in winning his green beret in 1986.

"I remember picking Simeon up back in Bristol and he was wearing his green beret and so proud of it," Mr Ferrante said. "I hugged him and I can remember my wife doing a pasta dish with all the

family. It was a real celebration. He actually phoned from work to tell me, he was so elated," Mr Ferrante said. "He wanted to tell his brother, his sister and his mum. It was a hell of a big challenge to him."

"We went with him as a family to the course, trundling up the M4 until we came to RAF Brize Norton. When he arrived at the camp he was really eager and waved us farewell, saying he would be home in a fortnight's time."

Mortgage gloom in the marginals

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A SHARP increase in mortgage repossession signals potential difficulties for the government, with the majority of the worst-hit areas being Tory seats, according to a report in *Roof*, magazine of the housing campaign Shelter.

Research published today shows that 70 per cent of the 111 MPs in the areas granting the highest number of repossession orders are Conservative. One in four of them holds a marginal seat.

Between January and August this year the number of repossession orders in England and Wales rose to 48,792, a 47 per cent rise on the same period last year.

Although about 20 per cent of orders are not carried out, when the estimated 50 per cent of suspended orders which are acted on are included, the number of repossessions rises to 60,000. *Roof* found that almost

County	Orders Jan/Aug 91	% increase
Croydon	1583	100
Bow	1362	44
Birmingham	1030	18
Portsmouth	942	131
Southend	894	12
Brentford	877	35
Bromley	800	188
Luton	585	45
Bristol	568	82
Nottingham	550	49
Hull	537	117
Reading	519	145
Leeds	517	56
Northampton	486	18
Brighton	473	42
Plymouth	468	22
Liverpool	457	55
Bournemouth	438	147
Barnet	437	
Total Eng/Wales	48,792	47

How Briton tricked Iraqi police

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

CHRISTOPHER Bell, one of many British civilians included in the Gulf honours list after hiding from Iraqi secret police in Kuwait City, described yesterday how he helped to fool the Iraqis for more than three months. Tomorrow he will receive his MBE at Buckingham Palace.

Yesterday Mr Bell, aged 37, flew back from Kuwait where he has started a new life as a computer manager with his family. He hid from the Iraqis in an eighth floor flat, sometimes concealed in a 6ft by 3ft air vent and once in a disused lavatory where secret police tried to smash down the door but gave up.

He set up a video system in the foyer to give warning of the police's arrival and required the lift so that when they pressed the button for the eighth floor it stopped at the sixth.

PCs to use arresting English

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

POLICEMEN will no longer be able to proceed in an easterly direction. Nor for that matter will they be able to take down particulars.

Scotland Yard is to publish a plain copper's guide to plain English to end a 162-year tradition of official police literature enriched with a mass of strange and bastardised legal English.

The aim of the booklet, entitled *Let's Make It Clear* and drawn up with the help of the Plain English Society, is to tell officers that they can write as they speak. They are urged to write without waffle and without slipping back into a bureaucratic style. They should be punchy, on paper at least,

and reach for the working active verb.

There will be no more "your crime has been investigated" but "we have investigated your crime" nor "we will undertake an investigation into the matter" but "we will investigate the matter".

The booklet tackles the question of sexism with care. Instead of "everyone must do his work" the sensitive writer might try "their" instead of "his", use "his or her" or make a complete change with "all officers must do their best".

Writers are recommended to avoid such words or phrases as *assistance*, *at this moment in time*, *commence*, *comply*, *in accordance with*, *in respect of*, *in receipt of*, *persons (they are now people)*, *submit* (as in submitting the evidence, the fine or the confession) and *advise*.

When writing letters officers should be personal, helpful, sympathetic and answer questions openly. Too often they may contain lots of interesting information which is not always relevant. Lists are a good way of communicating quickly, the booklet suggests.

Officers are told that they should keep a dictionary readily available, presumably tucked somewhere away with the handcuffs, truncheon, whistle, personal radio and notebook.

IF YOU'RE NOT USING THE RIGHT COMPUTER SCREEN, IT'S NOT JUST YOUR WORK THAT COULD SUFFER.

An unpleasant thought, certainly.

But there is evidence to suggest that working with some computer screens can put the unborn child at risk.

In 1988, for instance, a study at the Kaiser-Permanente Institute in America found that women who used screens for more than 20 hours a week had 'a significantly elevated risk' of problems during pregnancy compared with women doing other types of office work.

Dr. Irving Selikoff, a world-renowned specialist in occupational health, said that this study added 'substantial authority' to concerns about the health risks of screens.

Although the evidence is not conclusive, experimental work in this area continues.

In fact, in Europe the degree of concern is such that from 1993 the EC is insisting that radiation from computer screens

is reduced to negligible levels. One manufacturer has already gone that far. And further. EIZO.

As the name suggests, it's a Japanese company. And its screens are turning out to be remarkably popular throughout the world.

Perhaps it's simply because EIZO screens have been proved to emit the very lowest levels of the type of radiation that is believed to be potentially harmful.

In recent tests by the safety-conscious Swedish government, for example, only a handful of manufacturers satisfied their tough new standards at both low and high resolution.

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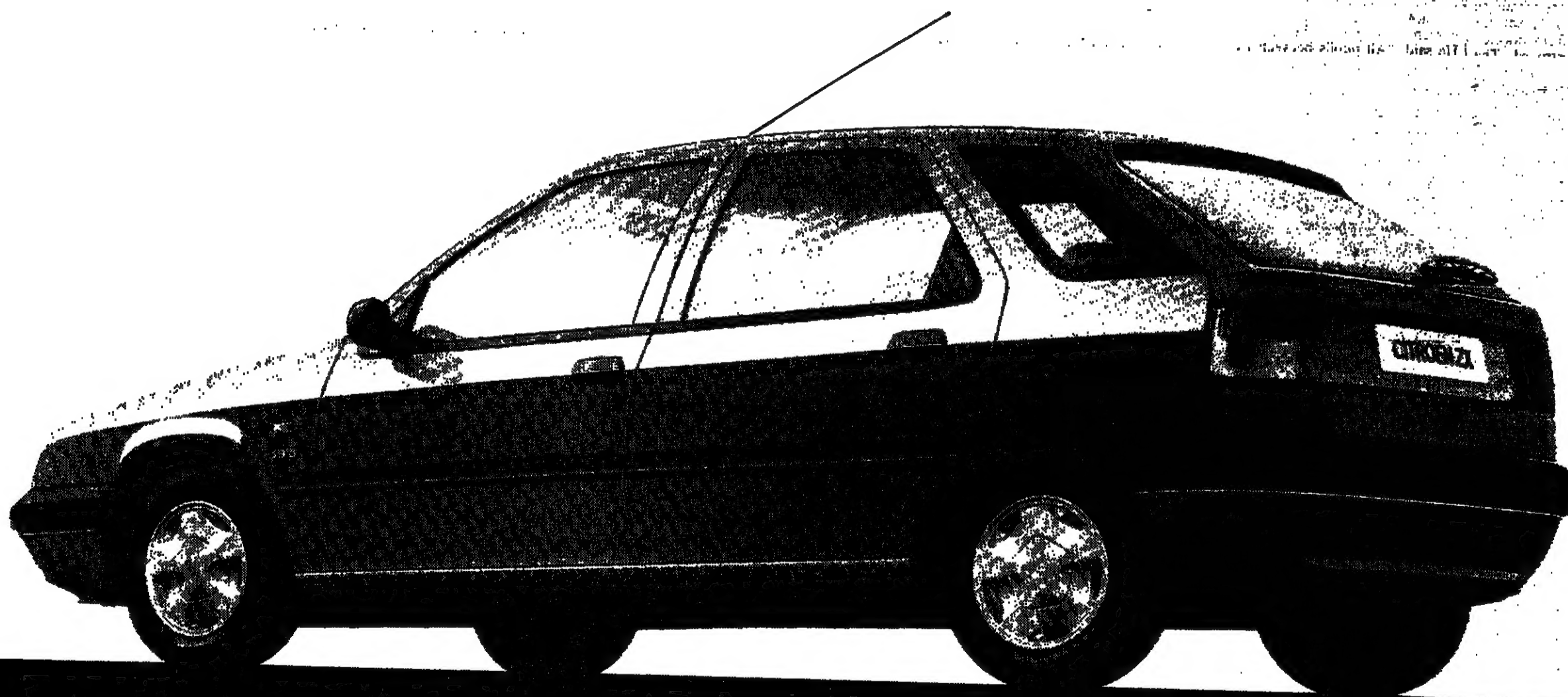
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by What Car? magazine. When they carried out a quality audit on the ZX and its four main competitors, the ZX came out comfortably on top. But you don't have to take their word for it, or ours. Close the door of the ZX and the solid 'KLUMPH' speaks for itself.

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Primary school reform Clarke reverts to traditional class methods

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PROJECT-based teaching in primary schools is to be ended by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. He wants to see a return to traditional methods where children aged from seven to eleven are taught individual subjects.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Clarke said that the present method of teaching maths, English, science, geography and history in one topic, such as a project on the Tower of London, failed to cover the separate subjects adequately and did not stretch children.

"I would like to give higher priority to primary education anyway, but I think we ought to have a look at the changing nature of primary education," he said. "If you haven't got people making proper progress by the time they are 11 it is almost impossible to remedy it afterwards."

Mr Clarke is working on detailed plans that will strike at the heart of current teaching practice in many primary schools, which believe in teaching through play and

projects. Topic work was introduced into most primary schools in England and Wales after the Plowden report in 1967.

"What has been regarded as good practice in primary schools in recent years can't deliver because it is too play-centred, too child-centred," said Mr Clarke.

"There is a great deal of play-centred teaching, the kind of thing that works very well in the well managed classroom, but at its weakest there is a lot of the sticking together of egg boxes and playing in sand with nobody paying adequate attention to what children are learning."

He said there would be no need for new legislation but that he would begin discussions with the teaching profession.

A recent interim report from the National Foundation for Educational Research on the first national curriculum tests of seven-year-olds in English, maths and science showed that many children were not achieving the results expected of them. "Some of the people who criticise testing at the age of seven will be reduced to silence when we produce the full results," said Mr Clarke.

"We had no idea what was happening before but we are now producing a great deal of information, some of which will be comfortable and comforting, some of which will be uncomfortable. It is absurd when the information is uncomfortable to cast doubt on the value of the government's reforms. We are embarking on the reforms because we always suspected these deficiencies were there."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, went some way to support Mr Clarke's views when he spoke to the association's primary conference in York yesterday. He said: "All pupils between four and eight should be taught by their class teachers ... but we can then contemplate a significant change in primary practice for children who have reached the age of nine."

"They ought to be mature enough to benefit from subject based teaching and to achieve their maximum potential as a result of being taught by specialist teachers. Indeed, it may be advisable to go further in those last two years and introduce the concept of streaming."

Education, page 37



Record run: cheered on by Harrow School pupils in top hats and tails, Mark Smith, captain of cross-country running, knocked four minutes off the record of 2hr 16min yesterday in the school's annual 21-mile race for charity, which raised more than £6,000 for London's young homeless

Bar council accepts plans to end sex discrimination

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN barristers have won the backing of the Bar council's annual meeting for a new policy to end sex discrimination in the profession. In spite of opposition from some senior Bar leaders, proposals for an equal opportunities policy to remove what one barrister called the "glass ceiling" faced by women were passed by 102 votes to 19.

The resolution, which could lead to target quotas in chambers and other action to ensure that women are promoted at the same rate as men, was tabled by the newly-formed Association of Women Barristers, which wants to rid the Bar of its image as a bastion of male supremacy.

The proposer, Barbara Hewson, said: "Plainly there is a glass ceiling for women at the Bar, that's obvious. Last year, of 78 silks appointed, only five were women, which is woefully low." Miss Hewson said that research had shown that women took longer to progress than men and that they were paid less. She added: "There clearly is unequal treatment, and we must get to the bottom of it."

The Bar will set up an equal opportunities committee with similar authority to its race relations committee, which is chaired by a High Court judge and recently adopted a radical package of reforms to ensure

race equality at the Bar. There will be a research programme to determine to what extent women experience discrimination and then the Bar council will consider what action is needed.

Women speaking in favour of the motion included Jennifer Horne-Roberts, Christina Gorna and Helena Kennedy, QC, who earlier this year put forward a powerful report on sex discrimination at the request of the Bar chairman.

Miss Kennedy's report has effectively been put to one side. Instead, a small committee, under Ann Goddard, QC, has been set up to look at the issue. "We fully endorse this committee, but it has not



Kennedy: discrimination report put on one side

Miss Kennedy's report has effectively been put to one side. Instead, a small committee, under Ann Goddard, QC, has been set up to look at the issue. "We fully endorse this committee, but it has not

the status or funds to investigate discrimination properly," Miss Hewson said. Data will be obtained on such areas as obtaining pupils, law, tenancies, silk, judicial appointments, arrangements for maternity leave and child care.

Miss Hewson, aged 30, a commercial barrister who is standing for the forthcoming Bar council election, said: "Women coming into the Bar want to see a satisfactory career structure in place. Otherwise, they will look at what is being done in other professions and go elsewhere."

Women on top, page 10
Men have their say, page 15

BR steps up drive for more women

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Rail is to increase its recruitment campaign for women train drivers. Out of 16,000 drivers, ten are women and 40 women are training.

Senior BR managers acknowledge that the move is likely to be resisted by middle managers and drivers.

BR is one of the 61 companies involved in the Opportunity 2000 campaign for women, launched last week by John Major. About 9 per cent of its workforce of 130,000 are women. BR no longer accepts that there is anything in a driver's work to prevent women from doing it.

Half the drivers are due to retire in the next nine years. "We are up against the stereotypes you see in society generally," one senior BR figure said. "Most drivers are of a generation where women stayed at home and did housework. Most of them say that women can't cope with the conditions of work and that there are no toilet facilities. The biggest barrier women have to overcome is their male colleagues."

BR, which has to recruit 10,000 workers a year even though its overall numbers are steadily falling, sees employing more women as one solution to its recruitment difficulties. In Reading, Berkshire, a manager was unable to fill vacancies even after offer-

ing help with accommodation. He hired a shop in the town centre and in the first day received 150 applications, many from women.

Local managers are being encouraged to take such initiatives and nationally BR will aim advertising at women, using a range of women's magazines. In the next decade BR hopes to double its number of part-time employees, who form a quarter of the workforce and are often women. Similar moves are to be made to encourage people from ethnic minorities to move into such work as train driving.

BR is pressing ahead firmly with plans to cut overtime in the wake of the Clapham rail crash, although it is concerned about the possible impact of EC proposals to limit working hours, which it estimates could cost the railways up to £500 million.

It is also proceeding with steps to reshape its bargaining agreements with unions in preparation for the privatisation division of BR into five businesses and 29 profit centres next April. Managers expect national pay bargaining in the industry to wither away.

BR expects to make a low pay offer to its employees in their next negotiations, due in the spring.

Ford to expand at Halewood

Ford last night dismissed speculation that it was to close its main Halewood plant on Merseyside by disclosing ambitious plans for exports worth hundreds of millions of pounds which will revive silent assembly lines (Kevin Eason writes).

The exports programme is part of a strategy to raise efficiency levels in the company by 30 per cent in three years to beat off Japanese competition and to match productivity levels in Ford's other European plants.

Halewood has been on a three-day week producing Escort and Orion models since the summer. Ford executives, however, have now set quality and efficiency targets and have promised that if they are met by Christmas, the plant will win export production starting in the new year.

Branson attacks BA 'dirty tricks'

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, is preparing a list of complaints alleging anti-competitive behaviour by British Airways which he intends sending to the European Commission, the Civil Aviation Authority and the transport department. Last night he accused BA of a "dirty tricks campaign".

Such claims have been denied by BA, which insists that it is too busy coping with the giant US airlines and that Mr Branson, who flies on only a handful of routes, is little more than a mere irritant.

Sunday openers

Three in four shoppers want the right to shop on Sundays before Christmas, according to a Mori survey for the pro-Sunday trading group the Shopping Hours Reform Council, out yesterday. The survey said almost 70 per cent of people would shop on Sundays this December if stores were open. However, nine in 10 said shop workers should have the legal right to refuse to work on Sundays.

Officers named

Two off-duty police officers killed after their car and a bus collided on the M2 near Belfast were named last night. Constables John Cardy, aged 49, and Raymond McLoughlin, aged 39, based in the city, died in the accident on Saturday night.

Police hold 115

Police arrested 115 young people going to an illegal party yesterday and seized drugs, knives and guns. The youngsters were stopped near Bicester, Oxfordshire, but up to 1,000 others went ahead with the party, beside the B4030.

Nigel Dempster's Diary?

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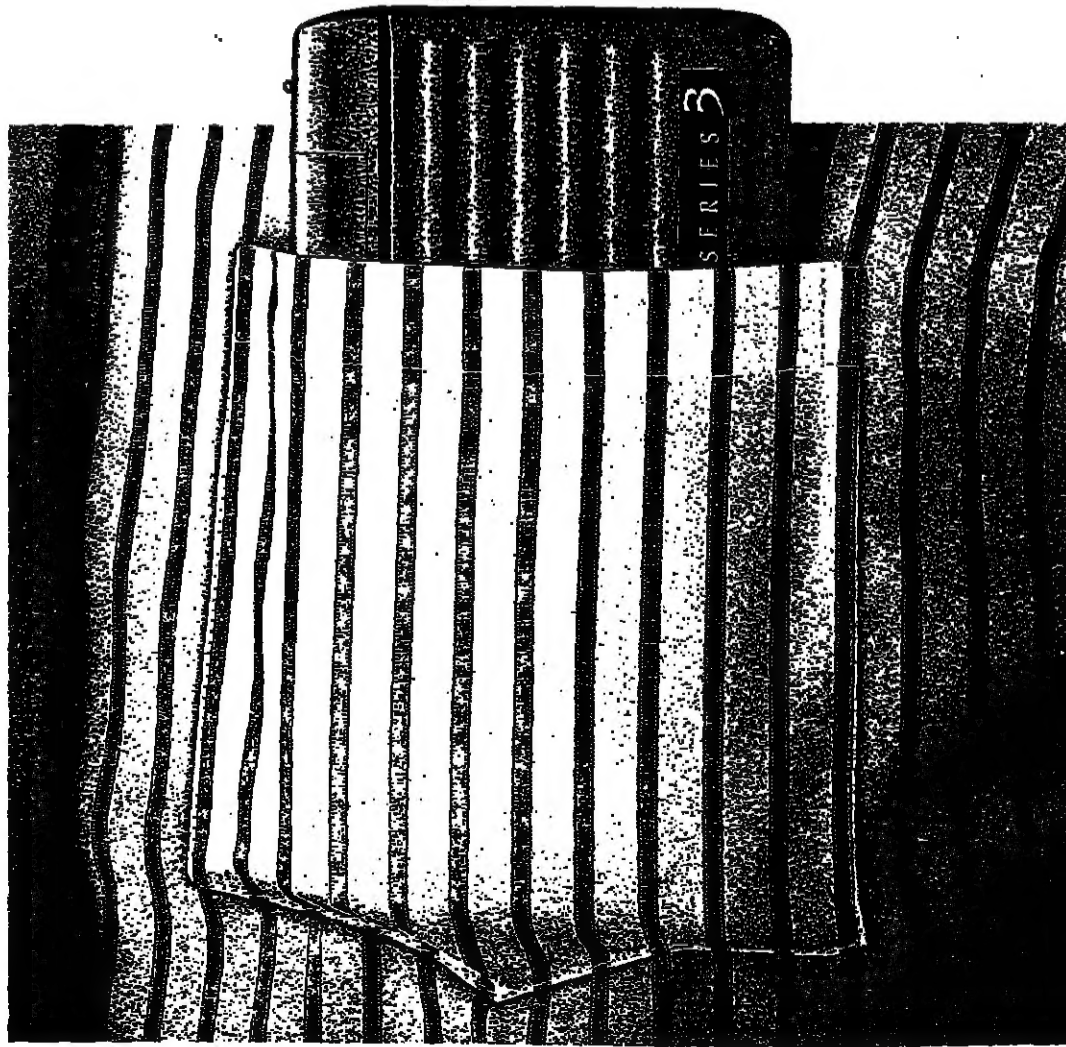
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Twin polls question government strategy

Voters play down inflation as a key election issue

By ROBERT WORCESTER

POPULAR support for inflationary measures is signalled in the results of two Mori opinion polls published yesterday. A poll for *The Money Programme*, broadcast yesterday on BBC2, found that 45 per cent of the public still believe that high inflation is important, so long as wages and salaries rise at the same time.

Although seven in ten of those questioned said the government should take strong action to get rid of inflation, the majority seem not to have realised the extent of government success. While the present inflation rate is some 4.1 per cent, those who think they know what it is, 80 per cent of the electorate, believe on average that it is 6.87 per cent.

Most regard inflation as inevitable: 78 per cent believe prices will always rise in the long term, and almost half expect inflation to be about 5 per cent or more for the next five years; over a third believe

that it is not possible to reduce unemployment substantially without causing a lot more inflation.

The government's success in reducing inflation has, however, put the issue on the political back-burner. Only around 10 per cent consider it to be one of the crucial issues. In another poll, conducted for *The Sunday Times*, nearly a quarter said the government should cut taxes and increase government spending at the same time; another quarter, 24 per cent, suggested cuts in both taxes and spending.

To cut taxes and raise spending would greatly increase government borrowing which, with pressures on wage increases, would be likely to cause runaway inflation.

There is some good news in the *Money Programme* poll for the housing market, with 61 per cent of people believing that, in the long term, investment in property is the best hedge against inflation. That figure is down only a few points from a year ago, despite the slump in property prices.

One in five say that when the recession is over, and the

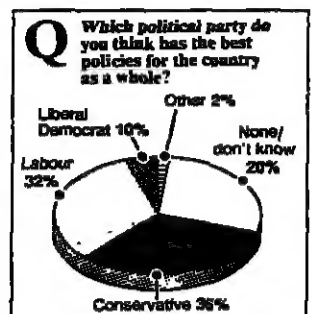
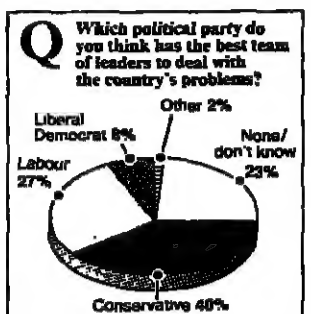
economy is performing normally, they would invest in the housing market by buying a new house or increasing their mortgage to extend or improve their present home.

Fewer people now have credit cards — 48 per cent compared with 53 per cent a year ago — but a third have outstanding balances on which they are paying interest compared with just over a quarter last year.

More than half say they are worried by the government's warning that higher wage claims will lead to more unemployment.

The Mori/*Sunday Times* survey was carried out among 1,101 adults face to face in 55 constituencies nationwide on November 1, 1991; the Mori/*Money Programme* survey was carried out among 1,142 adults face to face in 55 constituencies nationwide on October 25-26 1991. Copyright Mori.

Professor Robert Worcester is chairman of Mori.



Making headlines: Gillian Shephard yesterday

Soothing voice with sharp wit

As new deputy party chairman, Gillian Shephard will promote the caring face of Conservatism, Matthew d'Ancona writes

IN APPOINTING an all-male cabinet immediately after his election as party leader, John Major skated across this political ice. Last week, he sought to establish his credentials as an equal opportunities employer, launching Opportunity 2000 and appointing Gillian Shephard deputy chairman of the Conservative party.

Mrs Shephard, aged 51, is acknowledged as a rising star in the Tory firmament. Highly regarded by Mr Major since her election to the safe seat of Norfolk South West in 1987, she was part of his campaign team last November and became the first woman Treasury minister last year. Her new appointment has made her a natural front-runner to become Mr Major's first woman cabinet minister.

She is admired for her competence, steadiness of touch and emollient approach. But it is intellectual

substance that has pushed her up the ladder so quickly. Her background as an inspector of schools and chairman of the Norwich health authority makes her an ideal spokesman for the new cautiously caring style of Conservatism now issuing from Central Office.

On the issue of Europe, too, she is a pragmatist. A fluent speaker of French, she is enthusiastic about the EC as a business community but draws the line at any infringement of national control of social policy.

On top of her ministerial responsibilities, Mrs Shephard will lead from the front on the campaign trail, and her 20,000 majority will enable her to take time off from her own constituency.

Mrs Shephard typifies the new style of the Major administration delivering a tough agenda in soothing tones. She is the face that fits the present team.

Langbaugh by-election

Tories press on to retain seat

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE head offices of the main political parties had two essential tasks before planning their campaigns in the Langbaugh by-election: to find out where the constituency was and how to pronounce its name.

With three days left before voting on Thursday there can be little doubt that both questions have been comprehensively answered. The tight battle for the seat left vacant by the death of Richard Holt, the Conservative MP, has put the constituency, pronounced Langbar, firmly on the political map.

The constituency, with the pleasant market town of Guisborough as its main centre of population, has been Tory blue since its creation, but the 10.4 per cent majority in 1983 was cut to 3.3 per cent, a slim 2,088 votes, when Mr Holt last fought the seat in the 1987 general election.

At the last general election the Liberals took only 20 per cent of the vote, 7 points down on their 1983 performance. It seems unlikely that their candidate, Peter Allen, aged 32, a business management lecturer at Durham University, will be able to secure another Ribbles Valley or Eastbourne-type upset. There has been no evidence of a bandwagon effect.

The main battle is set to be fought between Labour's Ashok Kumar, a research scientist with British Steel on Teesside, and the Conser-

PROFILE OF SEAT

1981	Owner occupiers	62.5%
1981	Council tenants	28.2%
1981	Black/Asian	0.7%
1981	Middle class	47.8%
1981	Prof management	15.4%
1987	Unemployed	11.8%
1987	Electorate	79,193

1945-52	Octavius Wiley	Lab
1952-59	Arthur Palmer	Lab
1959-64	Wilfred Proudfoot	Con
1964-74	James Tinn	Lab
1974-83	Leon Brittan	Con
1983-81	Richard Holt	Con

General election: J.R. Holt (C) 26,047; P. Harford (Lab) 23,959; R.A.J. Ashby (L/All) 12,405; majority 2,088

Advert spending 'out of control'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GOVERNMENT spending on advertising is "running out of control" in the run-up to the general election, according to a survey published today which suggests that the line between government and Conservative party promotional spending is becoming increasingly blurred.

The government does not publish total figures for advertising spending, but using estimates prepared by Frank Dobson, shadow cabinet secretary for energy, the union-funded Labour Research Department says that projected government spending on advertising will jump by 13.5 per cent in election year at a time when inflation is rising by about 4 per cent.

Labour party leaders believe that the Conservative party is increasingly enjoying what they see as an unfair

Department	1990-91 (prev) £m	1991-92 (budget) £m	Change %
Agriculture	2,432	4.4	+61
Defence	20,857	21,515	+3
Education	4,532	5,258	+16
Employment	23,748	17,41	-27
Energy	1,633	1.35	-17
Environment	7.9	10.2	+29
Foreign	1,829	1,571	-14
Health	17,311	24.5	+42
Home	12,478	13,585	+9
N Ireland	5.85	5.85	0
Scottish Off	2,640	2.2	-17
Soc Security	12,843	22,970	+79
Trade & Ind	5,782	n/a	n/a
Transport	8,082	10.00	+24
Welsh Off	1,428	2.00	+40
TOTAL	133,212	152,190	+14*

*Figures for DTI assume increase in line with otherwise average of 16.6 per cent



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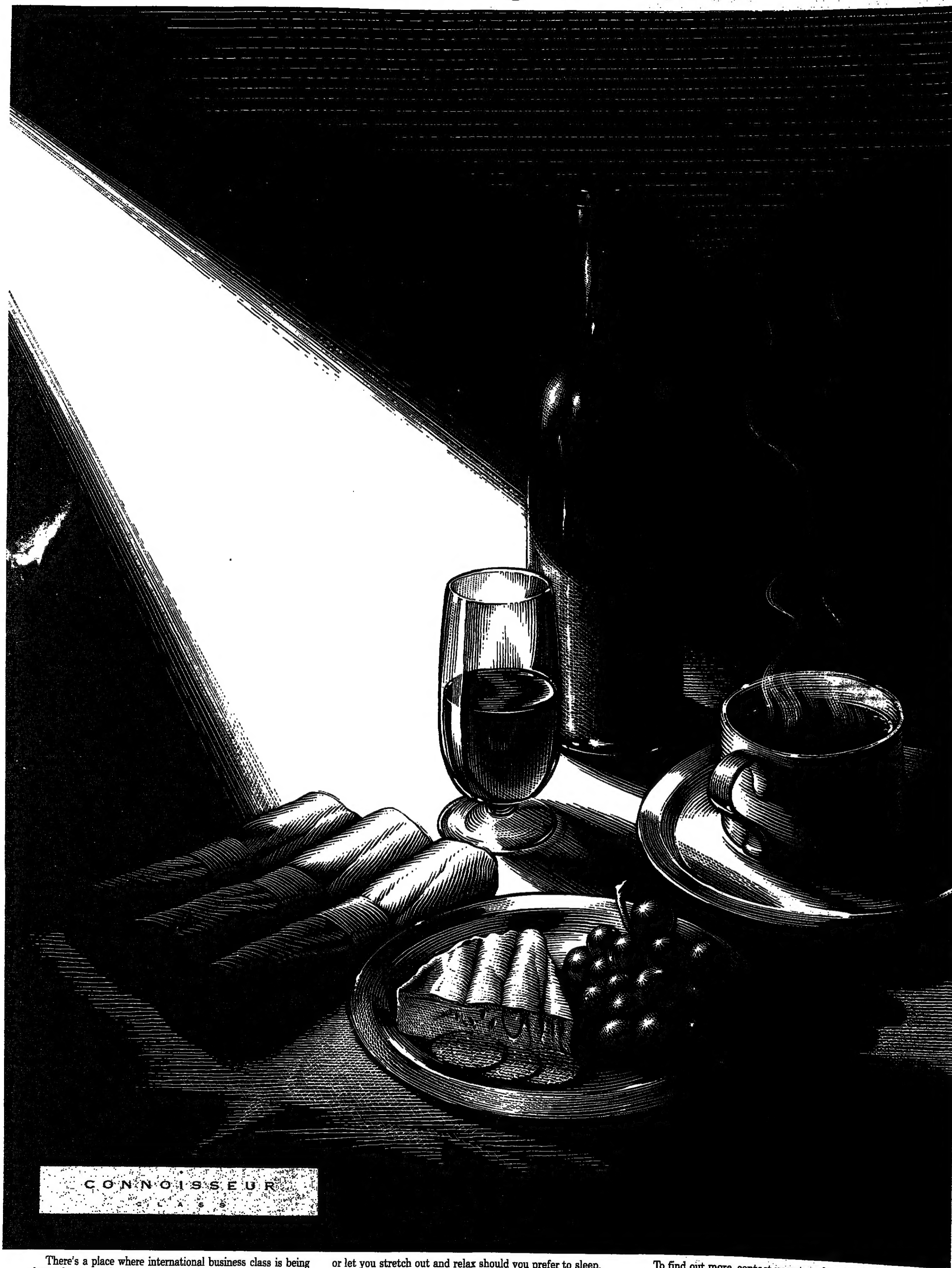
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Bond winner

Hunting debate

Trust votes to ban talks for five years

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ANTI-HUNT groups were dealt a further blow this weekend when the National Trust, Britain's biggest landowner, was empowered by its members to ban discussion of hunting for five years.

The move was proposed by Baroness Mallalieu, QC, the Labour peer who rides with fox-hunting and stag-hunting packs, at the trust's annual general meeting in London.

Another vote ended attempts by protesters' groups to stop the system of proxy voting, which gives the trust chairman, Lord Chorley, the power to cast thousands of members' postal votes in secret on any issue he chooses. An attempt by seven field-sports opponents to win election to the trust's governing council was also rejected.

The decision brought jubilation to the hunting lobby. One prominent member said: "That's stuffed them for five years."

Anti-hunt campaigners have been angered at what they see as the trust's lack of democracy in the use of the secret proxy vote. Doreen Cronin, a former Conservative councillor from Somers-

set who was behind last year's successful resolution against deer hunting, said: "The National Trust needs a Freedom of Information Act."

Although opponents have vowed to return, it is possible that the trust has contained the question and prevented hunting from becoming its principal issue of concern. The "anti" lobby has between 30,000 and 40,000 people willing to exercise their votes regularly, according to voting figures at the weekend, but it is minute in terms of the trust's membership of more than two million.

Senior trust members resent the way that the hunting issue often elbows out of the headlines the trust's main work as custodian of historic houses and landscapes.

Lady Mallalieu, proposing the successful motion, spoke of the desire of most members to preserve Britain's heritage.

"The trust must not be allowed to be distracted from that objective, or deviated from that work, by spending its time dealing with single-issue groups attempting to use the trust for their own purposes," she said she under-

stood that the trust would not wish to be seen to stifle discussion or appear undemocratic but added: "True democracy does not consist in allowing a particular faction to dictate the agenda."

Although she stressed that the power to be conferred was discretionary rather than mandatory, a number of trust members who said they held no view on hunting had expressed unease.

James Mackay from Warwick suggested that Lady Mallalieu's own hunting interests were behind it, telling the meeting: "She has used her arguments speciously and selectively in pursuit of a concealed objective."

The motion was voted through by 60,349 votes to 57,044. Lord Chorley, who declined to say whether or how his secret proxy votes had influenced the outcome, was asked if the trust would use its new power to ban debate. "It will be a matter for the council to discuss," he said.



Best of brass: a member of the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade, one of 55 bands competing at the British youth championships, Wembley Arena, yesterday

Slump threatens country hotels

By LOUISE HIDALGO

THE country house hotel trade, having faced a lean two years and a gloomy spring, can expect a stagnant winter and yet more tough times ahead, a market report says.

Dwindling numbers of foreign visitors, companies slashing expenses for out-of-town conferences, and large overheads have combined with high interest rates to make them one of the areas of the economy worst hit by the recession, according to the market research group Mintel.

Income from country house hotels, which in better times represented a tenth of the UK's hotels but almost a third of total turnover, will fall by 14 per cent this year, Mintel predicts.

The group urges owners to diversify. A good restaurant, value for money and a pleasant setting are the keys to success, it says.

Mintel estimates there were about 2,000 country house hotels in operation at the end of 1990, 10 per cent of which have since gone out of business.

Many were grand old buildings, the owners of which have been left reeling under the

hefty costs of refurbishment. At least 100 are in the hands of receivers, and one in five of the hotels listed in Egon Ronay's Cellnet guide is up for sale.

Stapleford Park hotel in Leicestershire is a prime example. Bob Payton, an American fast-food king, bought the stately home five years ago and turned it into a 35-bedroom themed hotel. It is now on the market at £6.5 million.

The longer established hotels are surviving much better, the British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers' Association says. Cliveden in Buckinghamshire, previously a National Trust house, which now commands a starting price of £185 a night, reports its best year yet.

Nigel Corbett, owner of the Summer Lodge hotel in Dorset, which he set up 13 years ago, says business has dropped by about 10 per cent this year, but he was bullish about the long-term outlook.

"We're already fully booked for Christmas, and have had to borrow four rooms from the hotel next door to meet the demand," he said.

Quorn reflects on a black weekend

BRITAIN'S most famous hunt, the Quorn, this morning begins to review its future after a weekend that has seen it banned from National Trust land, made the subject of an investigation by foxhunting's ruling body, and forced to have its chairman and four joint masters resign because of an allegation of hunting malpractice (Michael McCarthy writes).

The action against the hunt has been sanctioned by a hunting establishment suddenly aware of how high the political stakes are becoming for hunting's future.

Lobbyists, in particular the British Field Sports Society, realise that hunting must be seen to keep its own house in order as a general election approaches which may give parliament a free vote on the

issue, and that MPs undecided on the moral question must not be swayed by perceiving hunting as incompetent, complacent or corrupt. "We may lose the moral argument," one senior source said. "We absolutely must not lose the intellectual argument."

The measures against the Quorn follow the release of a video, shot secretly by the League Against Cruel Sports, showing the hunt allowing hounds to kill a fox after it had been pulled from its earth, which contravenes foxhunting rules.

The Quorn committee, after an enquiry this weekend, announced the resignations of all four joint masters, Joss Hanbury, Alistair Macdonald Buchanan, Diana Turner and Barry Hercock, with that of the hunt chairman, Lord Crawshaw, while the Masters of Foxhounds Association announced an enquiry of its own. The National Trust has banned the Quorn from two stretches of its land, saying its licences, held in the name of Mr Hercock, had lapsed with his suspension.

Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound* and a member of the Quorn, said the hunt had reacted responsibly. "It is a very good argument for regulated hunting by registered packs, instead of the anarchy that would prevail if those who are against hunting had their way," he said.



Lord Crawshaw: one of five hunt resignations

Joyrider killed on motor bike

A TEENAGE joyrider was killed when the stolen motor cycle he was riding crashed yesterday. Michael Edgell, aged 18, of Cramlington, Northumberland, died instantly when the machine hit a wall at Newsham near by.

A youth riding pillion received minor injuries. Northumbria police said that the Yamaha 125cc motor cycle was earlier reported stolen.

Pollution alert

A year-long air pollution survey in Edinburgh showed that levels of nitrogen dioxide, which can cause ill health and produce acid rain, were up to five times higher than EC guidelines. The district council has called for urgent action.

Drum beater

Rory Blackwell of Starcross, Devon, claimed six world records after 14 minutes on musical instruments, including playing drums upside down in mid-air for 1 minute 4 seconds, breaking Buddy Rich's record.

Flat rate fine

Surrey Wildlife Trust has opened a 24-hour telephone line on which motorists can confess to running over hedgehogs and promise to pay a voluntary £20 fine.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw: £100,000 prize: bond number 26WN 054570, winner lives in Horsham (value of holding: £3151; £50,000, 9PL 405213; Co Tyrone (£50); £25,000, 107S 949864; Walsall (£2,500).

Cartoons join the Aids fight

By RAY CLANCY

A HEALTH authority is publishing a comic to put forward advice to children about HIV and Aids.

Sirus the Virus, a six-page colour comic for children aged nine to 12, will be issued by Somerset health authority as part of its HIV prevention campaign. The comic comes a year after a booklet was introduced for children aged five. Playgroups, schools and parents from around the country have been buying copies.

The comic is likely to be followed by a scheme for older children later in the year, according to Diane Scorer, the authority's district HIV prevention co-ordinator.

The number of children who are HIV positive is increasing. Although Somerset has no infected children, numbers elsewhere have risen. Latest government figures show that there are 288 HIV positive children in Britain.

The decision to publish reading material for children explaining Aids and HIV was a direct result of appeals from parents. "Parents were continually asking for help in how to explain the virus to their children," Mrs Scorer said.

The comic features a spiky blob called Sirus who explains that he is a special kind of virus. The cartoons show lots of beady-eyed viruses who talk about attacking the body. They explain the body's immune system and how some viruses such as colds spread easily but why HIV is not easy to catch.

Where is the hidden world where men's fashions are 200 years old? Married women must hide their natural hair? And boys and girls are kept apart from the age of 3?



Stamford Hill, London N16.

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Democracy in Africa

Mobutu spurns new opposition challenge

From SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

PRESIDENT Mobutu of Zaire remained defiant yesterday as democratic changes took effect in neighbouring Zambia. On the day that Kenneth Kaunda accepted defeat in Zambia's first free elections since 1968, Marshal Mobutu courted ridicule by asking selected members of the foreign press corps, assembled in Kinshasa to catalogue his much-praised political demise, to name one Anglophone country that had gone down the path to democracy in Africa.

"Name me one, just one," he said, clearly smarting from the beating he has taken from the French and Belgian gov-

ernments which have been demanding for weeks that he step aside and hand over the reins of government to his opponents. Those watching the exchange on Zaire television howled "Zambia", and could have added Sierra Leone, Botswana, Nigeria and possibly Uganda. But those taken for a weekend spin up the Congo on his Belgian-built boat, the Kamanyola, were under the president's spell. They replied to his question with silence.

The confidence in his own charismatic powers — which has kept him in power for 26 years — was a sign that Marshal Mobutu had come off

the ropes and was once again taking the political initiative even after five weeks of rioting by the military. The country's economy is a mess, inflation is skyrocketing, the local currency in free-fall against the dollar, and industry at a standstill after the flight of almost all Europeans.

Against the backdrop of Frederick Chiluba's victory over Dr Kaunda in Zambia and the wave of democracy threatening even entrenched autocrats such as President Moi in Kenya, prising Marshal Mobutu out of power looked as difficult a prospect yesterday as it did a year ago. Last week his harshest critic, Etienne Tshisekedi, leader of the Sacred Union, formed a government to rival one set up by the president under Bernardin Mungul-Diala.

Observers were impressed by the boldness of the move and predicted that this might bring thousands of demonstrators on to the streets in support of the union, and even that the army might turn against the president. But at the weekend President Mobutu dismissed the development and refused to recognise M Tshisekedi (a former interior minister) as a serious threat, thus spurning the challenge.

Marines smuggle chimps to safety

By SAM KILEY

MEMBERS of the United States Marine Corps guarding their embassy in Kinshasa have been smuggling baby chimpanzees out of the riot-torn Zairean capital to safety across the Congo river in Brazzaville.

The first shipment of about a dozen chimps, rescued from small zoos and private homes around Kinshasa during the September riots, were smuggled out during the evacuation of Americans. The mission, supervised by Dr Jane Goodall, one of the world's leading experts on primates, set up a base at the US embassy in the Congolese capital, where the apes were given veterinary treatment and will be shipped to parks and zoos around the world.

Under pressure from environmentalists, the Zairean authorities agreed to send policemen to Kinshasa's markets with US marines to confiscate baby chimps being sold at the roadside alongside other rare species, such as

African grey parrots. A few were saved until security broke down again at the end of last month. "We cannot rely on the gendarmes any more, so we just come down here and buy them with our own money," said one marine, holding a four-month-old chimp.

"I bought one for \$75 cash yesterday, out of my own money and we're keeping it at a private address to stop it becoming a diplomatic incident, and I think I'll have to save this one too. My one at home could use a little buddy," said the marine, whose smuggling ring is a private operation run independently of the American embassy, which is officially ignorant of it.

"It's impossible to ignore. It's like selling human children from cages, but we haven't got that much cash so I hope they [the Zairean authorities] get the message and start confiscating the chimps again," he said.



Headline feat: Mhian Thomas, aged 11, from Wales, showing off her skills in a contortionist competition against young artists from nine countries during the fifth European Circus Youth Festival in Wiesbaden, Germany

Kaunda's poll defeat teaches Zambians about people power

KENNETH Kaunda, the present occupant of State House, the presidential palace in Lusaka's Independence Avenue, manipulated the country's constitution to ensure his tenure lasted 27 years. Frederick Chiluba, the incoming resident, will find it much harder to ensure that he has a long stay.

Mr Chiluba's overwhelming support in last Thursday's fully democratic elections was among the most peaceful and good-natured changes of govern-

ment seen in Africa. But, now that Zambians have had a taste of democracy and of the meaning of people power beyond the rhetoric of politicians, dictatorial rule is likely to be very much more difficult to impose.

The capital is full of people who tell you with satisfaction: "We have changed the government", and what they have done once they can do again. Amon Chilungu, a stallholder in Soweto market, just off Cairo Road,

summed up the general feeling when he said: "If Chiluba does not shape up, then we will kick him out after five years."

Mr Chiluba, aged 48, laid emphasis throughout his campaign on democracy, good government and the necessity for elected representatives to be accountable to the people. He has a track record of total consistency as an opponent of Dr Kaunda and the one-party state. His opposition began, he says, when he was on a three-month visit to New York in 1973 and spent most of the time witnessing the Watergate scandal unfold and eventually bring about the

downfall of President Nixon.

"It turned my mind," he said. "Then I knew there was freedom in the world and I saw what freedom can do." He decided then that the study programmes on which he had been sent to Moscow and East Berlin were "brainwashing". He argues that the strongest medicine for Zambia's ailments is a constitution with a system of checks and balances to prevent abuse of power and political intervention to disrupt or-

inary market forces in the economy.

But Mr Chiluba will be very closely watched by the people, assisted by the Zambian press, which has suddenly found that Dr Kaunda's United National Independence party is no longer looking over its shoulder. Zambians will not forget Mr Chiluba's words, which he uttered while he was still head of the Zambian Congress of Trade Unions: "Never trust a politician."

Pretoria studies bill of rights

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A DRAFT bill of rights emphasising individuals rather than ethnic groups, which was the basis of apartheid dogma, was published this weekend by the influential South African Law Commission. It recommends that a limited bill, agreed by all parties, should be introduced while constitutional negotiations are underway.

The commission says such a bill could be introduced early next year to help create confidence in the negotiations. The 700-page draft is being studied by the government. It rejects as "utopian" some bills of rights proposals in documents published by the African National Congress and the Council of South African Trade Unions and, in a finding certain to anger the right wing, it rejects the right of Afrikaners to opt out of a non-racial unitary state.

It states: "The Afrikaner people, at present the ruling minority, cannot invoke the condition of repression", as a ground for secession to ensure self-determination. "Merely unwillingness to become part of a new mixed state does not seem to constitute a justified claim to secession under international law. The same applies to any black group. Whatever the past situation, a process of democratisation is in fact under way," the report says.

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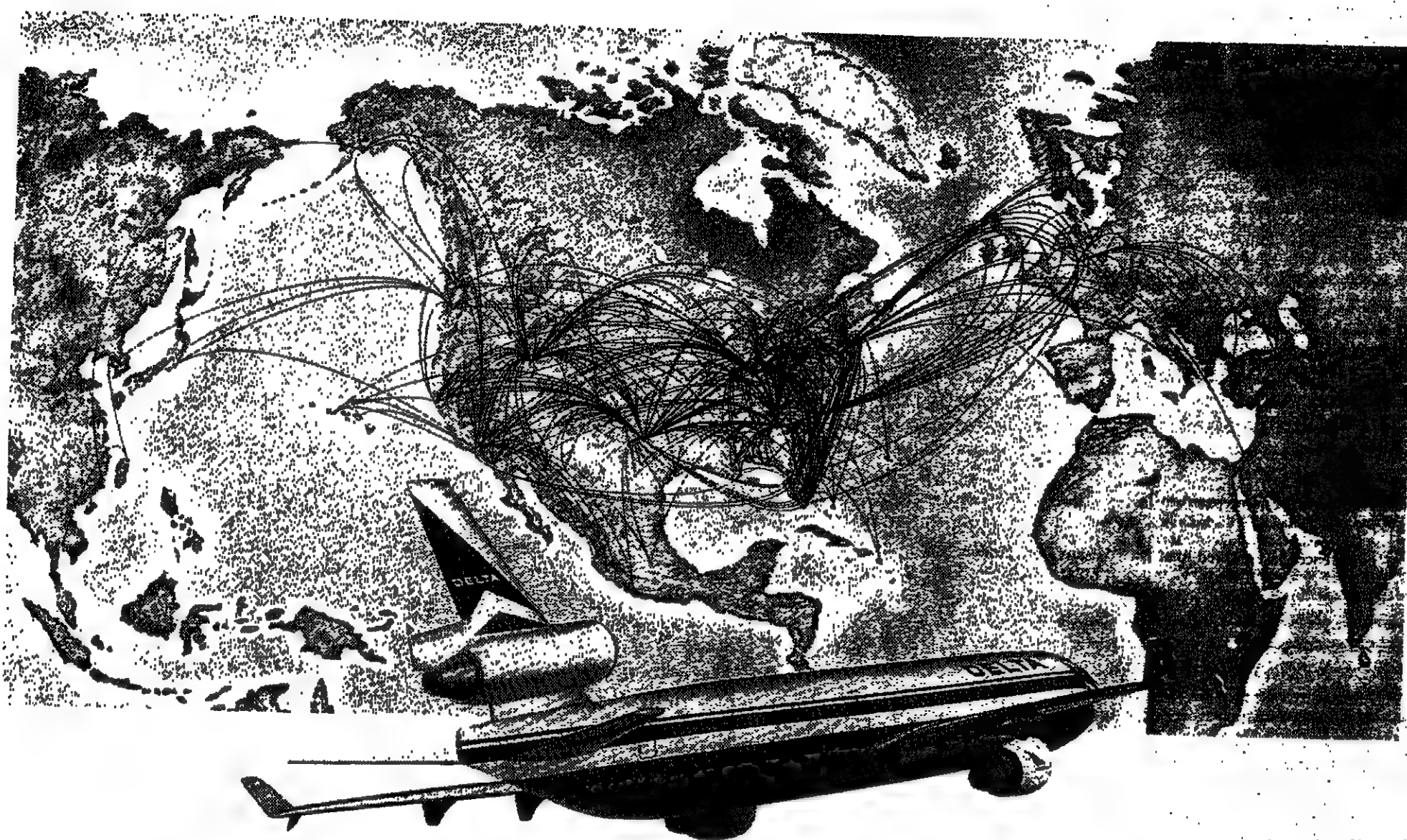
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ARAB-ISRAELI CONFERENCE, DAY 4: AMERICANS PUSH STUMBLING PEACE TALKS INTO SECOND ROUND

Wrangling over venue for talks angers US

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN MADRID

THE unseemly wrangle over venue which overshadowed yesterday's opening of the second round of the Middle East peace conference cut to the heart of the 43-year Arab-Israeli conflict.

From the outset, it was clear to American officials that Israel's repeated demand that the venue for the crucial bilateral talks should alternate between Israel and its Arab enemies would be unacceptable to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians. For the Arabs, a powerful weapon in their diplomatic armoury remains their willingness to exchange a normalisation of relations and a proper recognition of Israel for a return of land seized in the 1967 war.

"The demand by Israel that we should immediately go there for talks and welcome them back with open arms in our towns was a deliberate attempt by the Jews to rush things," one senior Arab official said. "As James Baker himself said, we have to learn to crawl before we can walk."

Although the Palestinians proved themselves more willing than Syria and Lebanon to begin face-to-face talks, they refused to talk in Israel while their people continue to live under Israeli military rule. "We must have somewhere neutral where we would be free to operate," Hanan Ashrawi their spokeswoman explained.

An Israeli spokesman argued: "There could be no better way to build mutual confidence and trust than for all parties to come to Israel for



bilateral talks and then continue with each of the parties in their own countries. History has demonstrated that the only successful negotiations between Israel and its neighbours are those which are held in our region."

The failure of both sides to recognise publicly the viewpoint of the other bodes ill for the chances of the conference

BILATERAL TALKS

achieving the peace treaties that its American and Soviet sponsors seek and hope for. But the unwillingness of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to be steamrollered by Syria was seen by American experts as a welcome sign that at least part of the complex Middle East problem may be resolved along the lines of the five-year interim autonomy plan rejected between 1979 and 1981.

"The reason that many people have refused to shake the hands of Israelis here and engage them in conversation is because we will only agree to that when they agree to give back our land or, at the very least, agree to talk about giving it back," a Palestinian adviser said. One State Department source explained: "Process equals substance for many of these people."

The main American worry is that procedural squabbling will be used by one side or the other to sabotage the whole peace process. The officials are aware that both sides are looking over their shoulders towards hardliners at home.

The Americans were doing little to disguise their anger with both Syria and Israel. Many Arabs were convinced that Israel was deliberately using the issue to wreck the peace process. Mr Baker, who let it be known he would have no hesitation in pointing the finger at any side deemed responsible for an early breakdown, hopes Spain will remain host to the bilateral talks. He has prepared alternatives in the event of a dispute and has said on American television that he is prepared to move the talks to Washington.

Television coverage of the conference has ensured that international image plays a large part in determining national stands. The Americans will use both stick and carrot to keep the process afloat.

As Mr Baker told both sides in his speech last Friday: "Sometimes we will support your positions and sometimes not. Sometimes we will act quietly and behind the scenes, and sometimes we will make known our views and positions in public. None of this will relieve you, the parties, of the obligation of making peace."

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Bilateral talks, page 1



Rewriting history: Israeli officials, led by Eliakin Rubinstein, the country's cabinet secretary, fourth from left, facing the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under the leadership of Haidar Abdul Shafi, a doctor from Gaza, head bowed, right, in Madrid yesterday at the start of the first direct Middle East peace talks between Jews and Arabs

First face-to-face session ends on note of optimism

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MADRID

ISRAELI POLICY

PALESTINIANS and Jordanians yesterday recorded modest, but significant, progress in their first talks with Israel over the future of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Although the bulk of the negotiations concerned the mundane problems of finding a suitable venue for future meetings and overcoming other procedural details, the fact that the talks took place in a sober and optimistic atmosphere suggested that real progress could be achieved.

"I am not going to give details of the contacts because now we are talking behind closed doors and that is very good," said Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the Israeli delegation, sounding unusually upbeat. His comments were echoed by the Palestinian side.

The crux of the negotiations will centre on finding an arrangement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which satisfies Israel's security needs and addresses the Palestinians' search for a homeland. For the first time since the founding of Israel in 1948 the Palestinians are expected to tell their Israeli counterparts that they accept the provisions of the Camp David treaty for an interim solution over five years granting limited autonomy to the 1.8 million Palestinians in the occupied territories and undertaking that negotiations about their final status would begin after the third year.

Palestinians want to create an independent state in the

territories, while Israel has always maintained that it will not give up the areas although it will allow their inhabitants to run their own lives. Washington has refused to give details of its own preferences, although James Baker, the Secretary of State and architect of the present peace initiative, has said he would like to see a Palestinian homeland which went further than autonomy but fell short of statehood.

At issue is how many areas of self-rule the Israelis would



Peace and war: an Israeli policeman arresting a Palestinian as a Hebron peace march was broken up

Lebanese troops breathe again as shelling stops

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN NABATIYEH, SOUTHERN LEBANON

AT A damaged bunker in southern Lebanon, within range of an ever-active network of Israeli weapons, a group of Lebanese soldiers pondered why the peace conference in Madrid may cost them their lives.

There was little martial eagerness at the last point under Lebanese control on the edge of the town of Nabatiyeh. The troops manning the wrecked house huddled behind sandbags and mounds of earth, scanning the Israeli positions across a rolling landscape of wrecked buildings.

Their position is tucked beneath a barren hill on whose summit, about 200 yards away, is an Israeli outpost from which shells have been randomly falling during the past five days.

Their deployment was at best a gesture of Lebanese sovereignty in a very fluid region, where the peace talks provoked exactly what they are meant to prevent. On Tuesday, guerrillas from the Iranian-funded Hezbollah and a Palestinian radical group slipped over Israeli lines to kill three soldiers and wound 11 others in attacks staged to mark their fierce opposition to the American-led peace strategy.

During the next five days, Israeli forces retaliated. Bombers cut off bridges leading to certain Hezbollah strongholds, helicopter gun-

No let-up in selling weapons

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

DESPITE the peace process in Madrid, there is no pause in the Middle East arms race. In the tiny Gulf emirate of Dubai, more than 400 exhibitors from over 40 countries gathered yesterday for the opening of the biggest arms fair yet held in the region.

Despite the pleas of President Bush and other world leaders for restraint in arms dealing in the Middle East, the biggest manufacturers from Europe, America, the Soviet Union and the rest of the world are represented in strength - and hoping for big

ARMS RACE

orders. The simultaneous holding of the peace talks in Madrid and an arms fair in Dubai has caused the organisers little embarrassment.

Saudi Arabia has plans to double the size of its army, and Turkey, Morocco, Oman, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Iran have all said they intend to strengthen their armed forces. All have high-level delegations in Dubai. The exhibition was to have been staged in January, but had to be postponed because of the Gulf war.

● Jerusalem: Israel's Arrow missile, described as a key element in the country's defence plans, has failed in three tests, newspapers reported yesterday. The Arrow is designed to bring down missiles like the Scuds fired at Israel by Iraq during the Gulf war. (AP)

Orthodox leader enthroned

Istanbul - The Right Rev David Hope, the Bishop of London, was among other political and church dignitaries who watched the enthronement of Bartholomew I as Archbishop of Constantinople (Andrew Finkel writes).

Their presence illustrates international concern for the spiritual heart and political conscience of the former Soviet bloc, where the bulk of the adherents of Christian Orthodoxy live.

Coalition move

Istanbul - Suleyman Demirel today begins formal discussions to form a government for Turkey, a full two weeks after the country's general election. Although Mr Demirel's True Path party came first, it still needs just under 50 seats to give it a majority.

Kohl son 'better'

Moscow - Peter Kohl, aged 26, son of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, will probably not need surgery for injuries received in an Italian car accident, his doctor said. He had shown a mild improvement, but his general condition was being closely monitored. (Reuters)

Muck and brass

Hamburg - Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, hopes to be able to make a compost out of 2,000 tonnes of obsolete East German marks, according to Der Spiegel magazine. Bonn is waiting for the results of a Bank of England experiment on composting shredded used notes. (Reuters)

Nato holds out hand of friendship to old enemies

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

NATO government leaders who this week will launch the biggest change to its defence strategy for 42 years are expected to underline the increasing political posture of the alliance and the diminishing role of nuclear weapons.

Urged by President Gorbachev recently to convert NATO into a political alliance, Western governments will demonstrate at a crucial summit in Rome on Thursday and Friday that they are ready not only to offer their hand in friendship to their old enemy

but also to open the door to new associations and co-operation with former Warsaw Pact members.

As proof of their intentions, the Nato leaders will approve a strategy document which has been under discussion for 16 months. Permanent representatives of the North Atlantic Council have been preparing an "alliance overall security concept" and the Nato defence planning committee's strategy review group has been drafting a new strategic concept. The emphasis

is on retaining military capabilities which underpin the "preservation of peace".

The clear political objective is to demonstrate to the Soviet Union that Nato is no longer turning the full weight of its military presence in Europe towards the old "Soviet threat". The strategy document focuses on a much broader understanding of security.

There will be more emphasis on arms control and confidence-building measures. The new strategy, replacing a 25-year-old document that focuses on the threat of a massed Soviet attack on the West, marks a significant shift from military to political co-operation.

The new document says the West still faces "risks" from instability in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa but makes no provision for Nato to take military action outside its member states, in conflicts like the Gulf war. The strategy outlines large cuts in Nato forces and plans to create mobile, multi-national rapid reaction units which could deploy anywhere on alliance territory to meet new threats.

While approval of the new strategy is expected to be unanimous, continuing disagreements over a Franco-German proposal to create a European force are bound to upset an otherwise smooth summit. The deadlock between France and Britain, which fears the French are trying to take military forces away from Nato, is unlikely to be resolved at the summit.

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SOS Croatia, page 1

Lenin's last stand divides Berliners

The defenders of Berlin's giant statue of Lenin have lost their battle. Anne McElvoy reports

He stands 63ft high in red granite, staring into the far distance with an expression intended to combine strength of purpose with vision but which, on closer inspection, looks merely grumpy. For 20 years the giant statue of Lenin has dominated east Berlin's Lenin Square. Now the Berlin Senate has decided that the monument will be dismantled tomorrow, the second anniversary of the fall of the Wall.

Other capitals of former communist states have been quick to hoist away their local versions, leaving bare pedestals from Warsaw to Bucharest. But, in the city which before the war gained the sobriquet "Red Berlin", although they may have been keen to part with his system, they are less anxious to abandon its monuments.

At this giant's feet there are flowers and burning candles. A banner hung by those who want to save him from demolition bears the inscription "Do not damage: last Lenin statue in Europe".

Eberhard Diepgen, the ruling Berlin mayor, is keen to see the back of Lenin and all other communist statues. He has announced that he has "no time for those who want east Berlin to be a sort of communist theme park". The local councilors of the borough in which the statue stands also want rid of it, saying that it would look incongruous once the square is renamed "Place of the United Nations".

Ulrich Roloff-Mumin, the city's cultural senator, and many leading conservationists disagree. One pressure group has draped the statue with a sash bearing the words "No Violence", the slogan of the east German demonstrators in 1989.

On either side of the statue stand blocks of flats, unsightly monuments to communist town planning. The inhabitants of the one which looks on to the back of Lenin's head were so sick of having their view blocked by an outdated ideologist that they collected funds for demolition. The residents on the other side, who can gaze into Lenin's eyes while breakfasting on their balconies, organised a petition calling on the authorities to preserve the monument.

"In Germany we are too keen on ritual cleansing," said Reinier Eisenberg, one of the campaigners. "We do not want to keep him for political reasons but because the last 40 years are a part of our history which we should remember and not simply suppress."

Council danger for Gorbachev

FROM MARY DEJEVY IN MOSCOW

WITH the dominance of Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Federation growing by the day, President Gorbachev has yesterday holding discussions with republic officials in preparation for a meeting of the central State Council today. The meeting, to be attended by leaders of eight of the remaining 12 Soviet republics - including Mr Yeltsin - and members of Mr Gorbachev's own consultative council, has been billed by one of the president's most loyal allies, Arkadi Volosky, as "heralding very big changes".

The agenda includes the inter-republic agreements on finance and taxation, and the future of the Soviet army, the interior and foreign ministries and the procuracy.

Informed political sources

in Moscow say, however, that the agenda also includes the abolition or renaming of the state presidency and even a timetable for the formal disbanding of the Soviet Union. Financial and political pressure on the old Union structures is mounting. Last week, President Gorbachev asked the skeletal union parliament to authorise a \$30 billion credit to the finance ministry to tide it over the next month. But parliament withheld approval.

● Kiev: The Ukraine's leader, Leonid Kravchuk, will try this week to sign Mr Gorbachev's economic union treaty, tying the Ukraine's industrial and agricultural power within a development of a single economic space (Robert Seely writes).

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The highlight of the Japan Festival is the Barbican exhibition of Japanese and British art, argues John Russell Taylor

Two worlds meet a little

The basic assumption behind such celebrations as the Japan Festival generally seems to be that interest already exists, even if detailed knowledge is lacking and needs to be supplied. Where Japan is concerned, this is a reasonable assumption, especially in Britain. The point of the important new show, *Japan and Britain: An Aesthetic Dialogue 1850-1930*, at the Barbican Art Gallery, is to document the avid mutual interest between the two countries, and indicate that it is no new thing, going back all the way to the mid-19th century opening up of Japan to the Western world, after centuries of self-imposed isolation.

There does not seem to be any particular reason why the rediscovery of Japan should have had such a vivid and invigorating effect in Britain specifically. The French Impressionists were fascinated by the first Japanese woodblock prints they saw, and a wave of *Japanisme* was to sweep the world before the century was out. But it seems to have hit earlier and harder in Britain than anywhere else, and frequently Britons were the mediators between Japan and the rest of the world. Early artistic investigators such as Christopher Dresser had the advantage of going to Japan and seeing for themselves, rather than getting everything filtered through the sensibilities of others and the chances of commerce. Dresser's books and designs had an influence felt throughout the Continent and even across the Atlantic.

Later, several British painters went (or were sent) to bring back first-hand impressions of Japan. In consequence, the Japanese subjects of Alfred East, Mortimer Menpes, and Henry and Horneel, are short on picturesque exoticism, but give a strong sense of what the country and people were really like. This, too, is part of the aesthetic dialogue, offering genuine understanding to mediate the (often spectacular) creative misunderstandings of stay-at-homes, such as Whistler and members of his circle including Theodore Rousset, who never got much nearer Japan than the stalls of the Savoy when *The Mikado* (1885) was enjoying its greatest vogue.

The matter of interpretation is important here. Every recorder, even a supposedly documentary photographer, is bound to offer his own interpretation. In a way, one country can work as a sort of giant Rorschach test for another. The show has many instances of artists reading their own wayward fancies into the indeterminate raw material before them. Nor is this only the West enthusiastically misunderstanding the East. Early on, Japanese artists started interpreting the West to their own people: first, by depicting the strange, hairy barbarians in their midst, as many line engravings and woodblocks do, then by going west to look at Britain and British culture for themselves. Some of the combinations they produced are very strange: the scroll-paintings by Shimomura Kanzaan and Takashima Hokkai, for instance, create a real sense of dislocation by treating London or Scottish scenes in a traditional Japanese form (and sometimes inventing freely to do so).

Even for stay-at-home Japanese, as for stay-at-home English, the effects of remote contact could be powerful: several Japanese painters fell in love with Burne-Jones through the medium of art magazines such as *The Studio*, while in London Beardsley was turning the subtle, off-balance compositional processes of the Japanese print to his own exquisite, highly perverse ends. Evidence of a similar eclecticism is to be found some years



Crossover: searching for answers in the artistic exchange between East and West, *The Reading Girl*, oil on canvas, by Theodore Rousset, 1887

earlier in furniture and utensil designs by William Burges, usually regarded as a thorough-going medievalist. Equally, the Queen Anne revival in British architecture and design produces some weird hybrids, where it is difficult to be sure whether the sunflowers germinated in Japan or in The Netherlands.

The show begins earlier than many visitors will expect, and goes on later, to include the circles of Bernard Leach in Japan and Frank Brangwyn in England. Particularly interesting in the latter context is the work of Kurihara Chuji, whose spirited *Richmond Bridge* (1914-

16) would be worthy of Brangwyn's own confident hand, and who apparently became a member of the Royal Society of British Artists (the only Japanese to do so?).

Kurihara is one of many crossover artists who seem to be neglected both in their country of origin and of adoption. He would surely repay further investigation, as would the almost forgotten Urushibara Yoshihiro, a woodblock artist who collaborated even more closely with Brangwyn on a series of prints which remain

poised with the utmost delicacy between two worlds.

Ultimately, the most exciting thing about this show is its fluidity. This is a floating world indeed, where influences seem to pass to and fro with ease, leaving visitors uncertain what precisely they are looking at, sure only that it is beautiful. Is this Whistler being influenced by Japan, or Japan being influenced in the next generation by Whistler? How many Japanese are prophets without honour at home until fated on the other side of the world? Is Britain really interested in Japan as it is, or

does it want to be left undisturbed in its romantic illusions? Are Japanese artists desirous of getting beneath the skin of the West, or will mechanical imitation do? No easy generalisations emerge, but in its search for answers, this show cuts deeper than any other in the whole Japan Festival.

● *Japan and Britain: An Aesthetic Dialogue 1850-1930*, Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-588 9023) Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tues 10am-5.45pm, Sun 12-6.45pm, until January 12. Sponsored by British Petroleum. Admission £4, concessions £2.

BRIEFING

Notable score

ONE of the few complete autographs of an important work by Beethoven still remaining in private hands will come under the hammer on December 6. Sotheby's is to auction the composer's working sketch of the two-movement Piano Sonata in E minor, Op 90, composed in 1814. The sonata is the only work of significance composed by Beethoven that year, and represents the closing paragraph of the composer's so-called "middle period".

With its many delicious and additions, and the impetuous handwriting of its author, the manuscript reveals a speedy translation of Beethoven's ideas on to paper. Dr Stephen Roe, Sotheby's manuscript expert, says that the document has been in a European private collection for some time. Sotheby's expects the manuscript to fetch about £500,000.

Reel setback

THE new edition for international film co-productions, seen as the future hope for European cinema, may hit difficulties when it comes to eligibility for Hollywood's "Best Foreign Film" Oscar. Germany's most promising candidate this year, Agnieszka Holland's *Europa, Europa*, now appears ineligible. A Franco-German-Polish co-production, with majority French investment, the film has a Polish director, Polish and German actors and a mixture of Polish, German and Russian dialogue. But Academy Award rules demand that "the submitting country must certify that creative talent of that country exercised artistic control of the film".

Last chance...

STEVE Carver's *No Sun at the Tricycle* (071-328 1000) is *Melvin* set in the West Indies, pulsing with calypso beats, larkish village girls and dark spots of hatred called down by Jenny Jules, the wickedly beautiful heroine, to avenge her betrayal at the hands of Jason. Pastiche Randall's thrilling production, comic as well as scary, ends on Saturday.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, opera and jazz
Page 26

TELEVISION REVIEW

Mind what the matter is

The human body is the best picture of the human soul. That is what Wittgenstein said, and it is probably why most of us keep our bodies ensconced under multiple layers of wool, cotton and acetate. Our souls are our own business. After all, if God had intended us to walk around naked, he would not have given us the ability to button up shirts.

Last night's BBC2 included two very different examples of nakedness, showing the bared soul of man in contrasting aspects. At the culmination of *Madness: In Two Minds*, Jonathan Miller's five-part meander through the mysteries of madness, he dealt with the treatment of schizophrenia, and showed us quietly harrowing scenes from a Greek asylum where, crop-headed and gape-faced, poor naked creatures howled and skittered as they were hosed down by clothed attendants. This wordless, brutish scene (which might have taken place not in a hospital, but backstage at a zoo or a circus) was a Swiftian, Hogarthian nightmare picture of man as yahoo; and Miller presented it — to great effect — without comment.

Later on, in Peter Greenaway's *M is for Man*, music

and Mozart, a shorn bald-headed dancer (Ben Craff) used nakedness as a means of demonstrating human perfectibility. Again the setting was Hogarthian, but the message was more optimistic. Greenaway's theme was that perfection in Man is Music; and perfection in Music is Mozart. Thus, he fixed his camera on a flour-white marionette in a birthday suit performing lots of twisting, climbing and posing as a life model from art history, and ending with a difficult shoulder stand. The after-image of Craff's excellent body in profile remained vivid on the retina for hours. My only qualm concerned the relevance of all this tricky gymnastic stuff to the genius of writing *Così fan tutte*. But it seemed churlish to quibble.

The links between the programmes were interesting. All through Miller's series, one had thought, "I wonder what the set would have looked like if the decorators had finished on time?"; and suddenly, half an hour after it finished, the matter was settled in *M is for Man*. In Greenaway's film, the mysterious ladders and dust-sheets from Miller's milieu were apparently peeled back to reveal an anatomy theatre, its galleries filled with ghoul-

ish sub-human figures in split, bloodstained surgery gowns bearing placards marked "Spleen" and "Bile" and "Arse". This was certainly novel, and Miller would have loved it, too.

Greenaway's text — set to the music of Louis Andriessen, sung by Astrid Serisee and then (just in case) written on the screen by a calligrapher — was all about the bits that make up man, and was taken from Vesalius, a 16th century anatomist. Characteristically for Greenaway, it was a naming of parts. The human body is "24 pulleys, a hundred counterweights, two lenses" — that sort of thing. *M is for Man* was fantastically rich as a visual essay (the post-production video techniques, familiar from *Prospero's Books*, lead the viewer into virtually a new medium, and one that is Greenaway's own). Yet, the strongest impression from this short film was its insistence on human corporeality — which is getting to be a habit in Greenaway's work. We are teeth, we are flesh. But as Robert Helpmann once remarked, the trouble with nude dancing is that not everything stops when the music does.

LYNNE TRUSS

THEATRE

Power games at home

Ariel Dorfman is in great demand. Matt Wolf met the Chilean playwright



Dorfman: 'Dictatorships represent the culmination of what happens in many houses'

Ariel Dorfman is, as they say, hot. The Chilean novelist and poet-turned-playwright is relishing a new-found attention. In London to oversee the transfer to the Royal Court main stage of his summertime hit in that theatre's studio space, *Death and the Maiden*, Dorfman must accommodate the press in between requests for meetings from the likes of Jeremy Irons and Roland Joffe, the film-maker. The London run, too, is only one incarnation of this play occupying his mind. Mike Nichols, Dorfman offers, will direct it on Broadway in the spring, and the film rights have been snapped up by Roman Polanski, with Glenn Close the intended star.

The play generating this interest may sound like the unlikely of international blockbusters — a three-character drama set in an unnamed Latin American country about a woman reunited with the man who may or may not have tortured her 15 years earlier — but Dorfman argues that its time is now. "It clearly has touched some sort of nerve, some sort of centre," says the 49-year-old writer.

"This is a play about the empowerment of women," he continues, eager to separate his drama from plays such as *Extremities*, the American female revenge piece. "What may differentiate it from others is that it does ground the woman's *soi-disant* madness in concrete historical circumstances, and yet universalises it. Her rage comes out of something that has happened to her that can be understood as the product of a system. At the same time, she is clearly speaking for more than torture victims. She speaks for many women who have been silent; there's a great deal of silence in the world."

Little of that silence comes from Dorfman, who goes on to cite "a second dimension to the play's impact: there are few plays about the real difficulties of the transition to democracy and few plays about violence and memory that work in this way. In all of us, and especially the more developed society, there are deep secrets of aggression that have been exercised and then erased, but erased by the person who has done it, not the person it's been done to." For Dorfman, the sexual anguish in the play is inseparable from political anguish. "What dictatorships do represents the culmination in the extreme of what happens in many houses."

Dorfman comes naturally by his political awareness. His father, Adolfo, was one of the architects behind the United Nations, and he left America for Chile during the McCarthy years. Forced into exile during the Pinochet regime, Dorfman fled, his wife and children lived in America, France, and The Netherlands before returning to a democratised Chile. He now divides his time between Santiago and Durham, North Carolina, where he is research professor of literature and Latin American studies at Duke University.

Written last year in Spanish and then in English, *Death and the Maiden* is only the third play from a writer better

known for his novels, poems and journalism. (His first book, in 1967, was about the politics of oppression in the plays of Pinter). The success of this latest play is surprising, not least because it shakes audiences up in a way that barnstorming plays rarely do. "I mean, this is not a play about somebody else, it's a play about them, the audience," says Dorfman, who brings down a mirror at the end of the play to implicate the audience in the moral dilemma. "People are going to watch themselves and ask: 'what would I do, who am I in the midst of all this?' But do audiences want to be implicated? Dorfman holds firm: 'I treat them as mature people. I have a theory that enough people are hungry for reality; they are tired of being treated as if they were idiots.'"

● *Death and the Maiden* opens tonight at the Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 1745) at 8pm.

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No matter what they say, men do not share jobs around the home. Laurie Taylor writes

sex. Not that women are exactly queuing up to be credited with such virtues as empathy and emotional responsiveness. Men who bang on about these sensitivities are also liable to insist on opening doors for women — literally rather than metaphorically.

We can only hope that men rebuffed for their dubious courtesies, their heavy-handed "flirting" or their failure to do their proper share of housework will not start whimpering and moaning about their loss of manhood.

EVERYTHING IN STORE!

Why America must stay

Peter Riddell argues that European defence without the US is unthinkable

Europe's relations with America are largely being ignored in the debate over the Maastricht summit. But they are a critical component. Before I left Washington in August I increasingly heard complaints from senior American officials: "What's up with you Europeans? You're getting so inward looking. We've always believed in European integration but you are going it alone."

Just over a year ago, Robert Zoellick, a key State Department adviser to James Baker, created a stir by asking whether the new Europe was going to be isolationist, intransigent (forming ad hoc alliances) or internationalist. He opted for the latter, perhaps more in hope than certainty. The answer from the Bush administration now would be more qualified.

The question was fully justified. Some, though not all, European leaders have become inward-looking, reluctant to face up to the wider implications of their actions. This has been seen in the

'Nationalist instability is never far away in Europe, and America is a force for stability'

he and his top officials are the most internationalists we are likely to see in Washington for a long time. More seriously, a tendency exists — much more on the Continent than in London — to believe that now the cold war is over and the Soviet empire disintegrating, the American military commitment is no longer needed, so goodbye (with not even a thank-you from France).

Both American and British officials are infuriated by recent French behaviour, which seems based on the belief, and hope, that the Americans will soon leave Europe. One shrewd American dismissed recent French defence initiatives as "amateur hour"; the description in London is "the politics of gesture".

The French forces in the Gulf came to appreciate what the British have long known: that they cannot fight a modern war without America's satellite and intelligence network or its transport facilities. It is all very well to push forward the Western European Union as a new forum for Europe's defence identity separate from the EC, but there is no serious alternative to maintaining the integrated NATO command structure. Reassuring statements will no doubt be rolled out at the NATO summit in Rome this week, but these will only defer decisions.

There is a risk that initiatives such as the Franco-German one for a European force will be counter-productive, particularly if anti-European feelings are exacerbated by a breakdown of the Uruguay round. Reggie Bartholo-

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

mew, under-secretary in the State Department for international security affairs, argued two weeks ago that the round is seen in America as more than a trade matter. "It will tell us something important about Europe's openness to the world and how Europe's mechanisms of union work".

Such developments would fuel pressures already existing in Congress for a much larger American withdrawal. As it is, within a few years America's main military presence may be in Britain (aircraft, facilities for rapid reinforcement, and intelligence), with much smaller commitments in Italy and The Netherlands.

A continuing American commitment to Europe is desirable for both sides. This is not a matter of Europe having grown up and no longer needing Uncle Sam's protection. The history of Europe this century, and in the past year, suggests that nationalist instability is never far away, and that America is a force for stability. Large arsenals of conventional and nuclear weapons still exist. On the other side, France is no longer a feasible option for a country with such international interests and investment.

ments. America wants, and should be encouraged, to remain a European power.

The balance of the relationship is obviously going to change. As Douglas Hurd said on Friday in the Commons: "The US is not willing and the Soviet Union is not able to act as policeman or magistrate for the world." America may be the only superpower — though its military power does not translate into economic hegemony — but Washington has no intention of intervening everywhere. It increasingly expects regional organisations to look after regional disputes — leaving Yugoslavia to Europe, to the extent that one senior British diplomat regretted the absence of America.

I am, of course, trying to have both my hot dog and my camembert. That has been the instinctive British view for 40 years. An island likes to keep open its options. It is possible, however, to be both an Atlanticist and a believer in an active British role in Europe. It is no good pinning for the revival of some mythical special Anglo-American relationship — a dangerously vague term almost never used in Washington — as an alternative to the Community. Apart from a continuing close military relationship with America, Britain's only chance of effective influence is by working with other European countries. But Europe will not be stable and united unless America is involved. The new Europe needs to remember and safeguard its roots in the Atlantic alliance.

Lynne Truss rides a wave of nationalistic English fervour into the mud of Twickenham

St Crispin wuz robbed

As far as I can remember, the battles of Harfleur and Agincourt were not waged against the Australians. In the 15th century, Australians could be relied upon not to give a XXXX for anything at all. It was important to hold on to this historical fact on Saturday afternoon, for fear of being swept away by Agincourt rhetoric and babbling about St Crispin's day. The English boy-king captain Will Carling even slightly resembles Kenneth Branagh, so the temptation was strong. "Cry God for Will, England and St George," said The Sun on Saturday morning, and you had to agree that the tone (if not the metre) was perfect.

After the event, of course, this "Once more unto the breach" stuff looked slightly silly. Carling may have regretted, in the cold light of defeat, dressing up in a St George's flag for the photographers. All the smart money had been on Australia to win, after all. On BBC2's *Have I Got News for You*, Angus Deayton suggested that whereas the English strategy for winning on Saturday would be a complicated business of tactics, timing and pep talks, the Australians' strategy for winning was simply to turn up at the stadium.

Yet for rugby know-nothings such as myself — for whom every referee's decision on Saturday came as a complete mystery ("A penalty for us? Oh, jolly good") — the patriotic imperative was overwhelmingly persuasive. The outcome of the game would depend less on the relative skill or determination of the teams than on the strength of its patriotic self-belief. One had only to compare

the fervour of our ringing-to-the-rafters rendition of "God Save the Queen" with the thin, lacklustre Australian anthem to take great hope for our eventual victory.

What went wrong, then? Well, naturally one turned to ITV's Frank Bough and his team of blazer-suited ex-rugby players for their analysis. I felt I had been robbed. I had waved my St George flag and cheered at the sight of the Queen wearing her cherry-red coat. Yet there had been an unexpected chink in the patriotic chain-mail. Henry V had turned into *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. Aussies to left of them, Aussies to right of them, and Aussies often on top of them, too. Bough kept asking Gareth

Chilcott, a large, well-seasoned English rugby player, for an answer to this perplexing question, and receiving the same answer. We had lost, apparently, because the Australians had played better than we had. I put down my flag for a moment and sat dumbfounded.

Afterwards, a Scottish rugby pundit suggested to Bough that "hundreds of thousands" of people would have watched and enjoyed this match who had never seen a rugby match before. I thought he meant people like me, so nodded. But he carried out such viewers should urge their parents to take them to their local clubs first thing on Monday morning, to join up as players. Oh, I

thought. So not like me, then. One wonders whether today's grasping youth would be interested, in any case, in the flame-without-fortune of the international rugby star. With £14 million sloshing about, it seems a swizz that the players can only watch from a distance while the bundles of notes are stuffed into airline bags and shipped off to be used for promotion of "rugby worldwide".

Yet the amateur status, the idea that these very-neatly-shaved and actually policemen and carpenters, surgeons and chartered surveyors, is where so much of one's cheating, waving and post-match despair came from. This is a band of brothers, out of Henry V, if you like, or from a Noel Coward second world war movie. "For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother." It is the sort of rhetoric — especially around Remembrance day — that is pretty well irresistible.

Whipping boy of the world

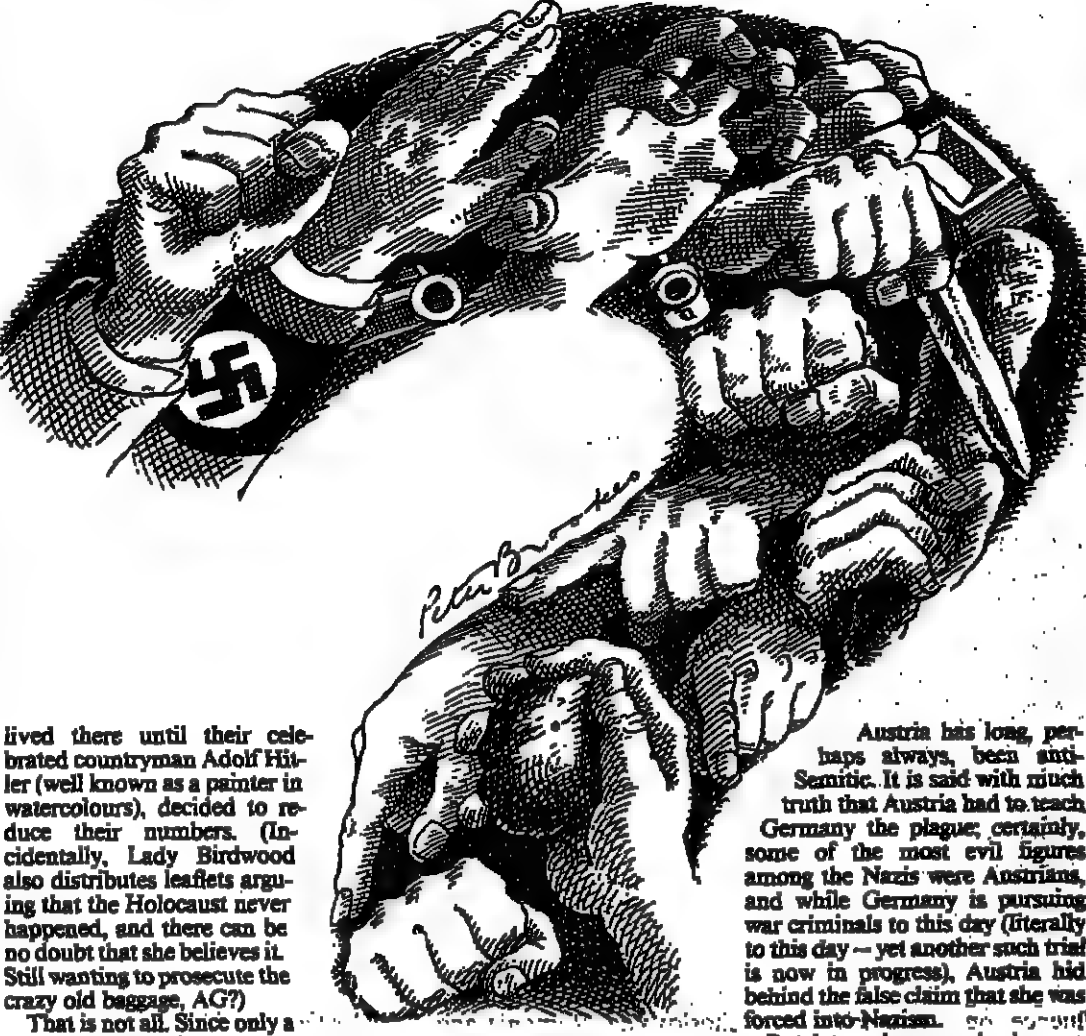
Bernard Levin on the mystery of enduring hatred of Jews

What law, principle, immemorial rule or time-honoured practice has laid down that every Attorney-General must be worse than his predecessor? The prosecution of that old hat Lady Birdwood, who is as barny as it is possible to be, was scandalous; you might as well charge the man who insists that he is Napoleon.

Yes, I have read the leaflets she gives out; they only reinforce the obvious conclusion that someone should follow her night and day to see that she comes to no harm. Their theme is that Jews in this country go about to catch and murder Gentile children, whose blood they then drink. Bah! Even an Attorney-General who is a goy (non-Jewish) ought to know that it can't be true, because the blood would be *trayf* (not kosher), so that no *froom* (practising) Jew would drink it, particularly while he was *davening* (praying); and in any case Lady Birdwood would simply be dismissed as *meshuggah* (crazy), and very rightly so.

The Attorney-General is a *shmok* (collector of 16th-century Italian wine-glasses), but can it be true that he was not going to stop the prosecution of Mr. Galbraith, the man who was alleged to have called the prospective Tory candidate for Cheltenham a "nigger"? (The problem was solved when the accused man died.) As for Lady Birdwood, she might feel more at home in Austria, for an opinion poll recently published there discloses some startling attitudes to Jews. (The poll was done by Gallup; this was no mere newspaper "ring-round".)

The poll asked whether the respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement "Jews bear the blame for their persecution through the ages". Fifty per cent fully or partly agreed. Asked whether or not it would be better for Austria to have no Jews in the country, 19 per cent said "yes". The "yes" respondents will be pleased to know that they are near their goal; there are only 6,000 Jews in the whole of Austria now, compared with the 175,000 who



lived there until their celebrated countryman Adolf Hitler (well known as a painter in watercolours), decided to reduce their numbers. (Incidentally, Lady Birdwood also distributes leaflets arguing that the Holocaust never happened, and there can be no doubt that she believes it. Still wanting to prosecute the crazy old baggage, AG?)

That is not all. Since only a handful of Austrians can ever have met any of the 6,000 Austrian Jews, the percentage (19) who wanted no Jews at all in the country is alarming as well as bewildering. Much more alarming is the fact that when the same questions were asked in 1986, only 10 per cent said "no Jews at all, please"; so the proportion has almost doubled.

We can go on. Thirty-one per cent of Austrians do not want Jews as neighbours; 20 per cent think Jews should not have uncensored access to influential levels of society, and 15 per cent would like Jewish property rights restricted.

We can go further still. Asked in the survey how many Jews there were in Austria (remember the correct figure is 6,000), respondents answered anything from 60,000 to 600,000, the latter figure being three times the entire Jewish population before Hitler.

Just as the poll results were being published, a Jewish cemetery was desecrated. Graves were



opened, coffins and bones strewn. The mayor of Vienna, asked for some appropriate words to condemn such horror, called the episode "boyish pranks". (There were elections in progress and he was naturally keen to retain his post; perhaps it would have been unwise to condemn the desecrators lest the anti-Semitic vote slip away from him.)

Austria has long, perhaps always, been anti-Semitic. It is said with much truth that Austria had to teach Germany the plague; certainly, some of the most evil figures among the Nazis were Austrians, and while Germany is pursuing war criminals to this day (literally to this day — yet another such trial is now in progress), Austria hid behind the false claim that she was forced into Nazism.

But let us leave such close-up examination and try once more to solve the insoluble problem. Why, of all groups (oh, yes, I am quite clever enough to avoid such ambiguities as "race", "nation", "people", "religion"), have the Jews, and the Jews alone, been chosen throughout the centuries to be the world's eternal whipping boys? (That reminds me: once, when I was arguing for a definition of Jewishness, the late Hans Keller propounded a very simple but remarkably conclusive test. Forget your grandparents, he said, forget religion, forget circumcision: would Hitler have killed you? Yes? Then you're a Jew.) Of course, other groups have been persecuted — rival groups of Christians, for instance, and today the Kurds — but the Jews, as long as there have been Jews, have regularly topped it from us Levins (we rank higher than any other lot except those bastards the Cohens) to the humblest Goldberg. Why?

You can toss back and forth the

old, long-since exploded solutions, such as the Jews' responsibility for the debacle (but Jews are persecuted in non-Christian lands), or their habit of clustering together (but the ghettos were built from outside), or because they were the first moneylenders (they weren't), or because they have different shape noses, a chain overthrown by the heroic Dr Fishbein, late of New York, who scrupulously measured ten thousand noses, with a control group of Jews, and could find no difference between the two nose-wearing groups.

And yet the dissolution of the Eastern Empire opened the gates we all thought were shut for ever; the riff-raff Lady Birdwood brought to her trial are certain that Judge Capstick is really Judge Kopfstein, but it can't be helped. (Unless, come to think of it, he is.)

If you detect a somewhat reprehensible note of levity in my discussion, it is not that I dismiss the recalcitrance of the plague. It is partly because I cannot believe that the incidents recently witnessed, though odious, are dangerous, and partly because as any professional journalist is, as both my experience and my observation agree, truly free of the plague in even its mildest form. Lord Belvoise did compel one of his editors to change his name, which was a very Jewish one: but nobody has ever suggested that I might have got on better if I had been called Featherstonhaugh-Cholera-de-la-mer even Smith.

But still, the "why" remains, and unless Lady Birdwood is right, the mystery is no nearer to being solved. These are grim times for their Christianity most; usually their average concern with money, but in the proportion of violent crime by Jews is much lower than the average. Are Jews in general cleverer than other people? No; or if they are, it is due to the still echoing Big Bang when the ghetto walls fell and centuries of repressed talent burst upon the world; that cannot continue indefinitely. (Anyway, what's wrong with being clever?)

The mystery remains. These peculiar people (though they are not peculiar — that is the point) have been, and among the less civilised lands and cultures still are, a focus of suspicion, unease, and in the last resort, hatred. Why?

If you think you know the answer, do not send it to me, and certainly not to the Editor, much less the Chief Rabbi. How about the Attorney-General?



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Maybe it's an old joke, but I love the story about the man in a pub to whom a Good Fairy appeared, offering him two wishes. "I'll have a mug of beer," he said, "which never empties." Hey presto! A full glass appeared. He drained it, but as he reached the last drop, the glass refilled. He drained it again. Again a fresh pint appeared.

After eight of these, he raised his glass in an unsteady toast to the Good Fairy. "And your second wish?" she enquired. "Another of these." Something like this has happened to me. I have an everlasting tube of toothpaste. I've had my Giant-Sized Aquafresh for eight months. Unlike with the fairy, there is no abracadabra, no sudden refill, plump and tight with another 125ml of gum-protecting, plaque-fighting, fresh 'n' minty, triple-protection, fluoride Aquafresh. It's more a matter of never quite reaching the last squeeze. Two brushings a day for the first month, and my Aquafresh had shrivelled from a fat sausage to a pucker, flattened strip of crumpled tin: the bathroom equivalent of a motorway hedgehog. And then the magic started.

For that was June. Yet by early July I could tell that there always seemed to be just a little bit more. By August I was convinced.

Now, the fellow who keeps trying to get more toothpaste out of an empty tube is the butt of a

hundred *Punch* cartoons. Parsimony is the explanation, and at first I thought this was the case with me. Running my fingers along the length of the tube I would ease another smidgeon towards the nozzle, and think "must get another tube tomorrow".

Tomorrow would dawn ... another day, another squeeze, another smidgeon. Maybe it was the increased vigour of my extraction procedure? By July that explanation was wearing thin. My squeezing routine had stabilised, yet still the toothpaste came. Output, though meagre, was constant.

And now it's November and before me the tube lies like the automotive victim of some ghastly motorway pile-up, a scrunched wreck, its paintwork peeling, its lettering barely legible. I despise it. I am tired of Aquafresh. I want to try something new. Yet, in a world where millions have no toothpaste at all, what pleasure can I take in a new tube if my last one is unfinished? I must squeeze grimly on.

The more grimly because my old toothbrush, too, refuses to die. Bristles bent almost sideways. I cannot put it on standby service because my previous five toothbrushes already perform that role. The three from school and university are still waiting in a jar for the day when I need to strip and clean a carburetor at short notice. There is no role for another supernumerary. I

long for its neck to snap.

I long for the soap to give out, too. Like the toothpaste, this bar went from early amphetamine to near-insufficiency in a matter of weeks. Now it lies, seemingly immortal, in the soapdish: like a sliver of dried lemon peel, balanced by me on its side so it dries properly. It has been like this for a month. In the bath I keep losing it between my toes. I pray it may be sucked down the plughole by mistake, for an accident would be permissible; but it leads a charmed life.

As does the Spanish deodorant stick, protecting me from *las molestias del olor de la transpiración corporal*. Only a scrap remains, lying at the bottom of the cylinder into which I must poke a forefinger, bringing out a nail-full of the green substance. It smells like flyspray. It makes me retch. I hate it. I hate my soap-scrub, shirt with the frayed cuffs, brocade shoes, nearly-finished tin of custard powder. They oppress me.

From the boundaries of the little plot of sanity to which we cling, mental illness stretches away to the horizon. From every side, intimations of lunacy leer and beckon, madness shrieks in the night.

Marriage has never attracted me. I do not require to be adored or made love to, and I don't expect anyone to take my breath away. But isn't there somebody, somewhere, who will come into my life and take away my toothpaste tube?

Reith's little lapse

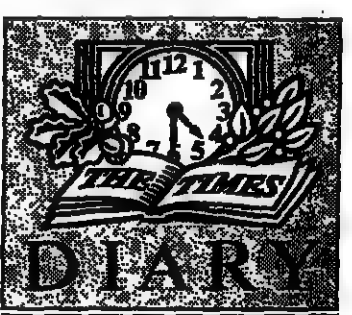
ALL Americans know that George Washington never told a lie, and it might be thought that Lord Reith, august former guardian of the nation's morals, was the British equivalent.

Regrettably, not so. John Reith told a fib, it seems, right at the outset of his broadcasting career in 1922 — in his application for the job of general manager of a new outfit called the British Broadcasting Company. This sits strangely with the staunch Presbyterian who did not look kindly on employees who divorced, and zealously probed applicants for moral weakness to the extent of forcing them to say if they accepted the Christian ethic.

Ian McIntyre, former controller of Radio 3, who is now writing Reith's biography, says of the great man's lapse: "It wasn't a whooper but it wasn't a white lie either." His research in the BBC archives at Caversham has revealed that the 33-year-old Reith wrote: "Since relinquishing my last post I have been abroad but came to town last week to make enquiries and arrangements for future work."

In fact, McIntyre says: "Reith, recently married, had thrown up his engineering job in Glasgow and had spent several fruitless months in search of work." McIntyre says Reith had been to the Channel Islands for a few days as an antidote for depression brought on by his lack of a job.

"When he sat in his club composing his application, he decided that the grand manner was called for but that Jersey was not grand enough," says McIntyre. No wonder the BBC subsequently insisted such a rigorous practice of checking references.



Jeremy Isaacs has not lost his sense of humour during the Royal Opera shenanigans. At Saturday night's dress-rehearsal of *Les Huguenots*, which would have been a proper performance but for the orchestra's dispute, he appeared on stage to tell the audience they could claim their money back. If, however, they were feeling generous they could donate the ticket price to the Royal Opera Trust or the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. The audience greeted this with stony silence.

Doubting George

THE MAN who ran Mrs Thatcher's party-leadership campaign for her, "We ran a very good and strong campaign. We won, but just not by enough." Others might think that having a campaign manager who thought his leader should have retired long ago might explain why she lost.

George Younger, who replaced Michael Heseltine in Mrs Thatcher's cabinet as defence secretary in 1986, says: "It's a hell of a slog to keep going for more than two terms, and it's no mistake that American presidents are restricted to eight years. Of course Mrs Thatcher was so enthusiastic she did not want to go. But her luck, and certain events, began to change after about ten years in office."

Younger, who ran her campaign both against Sir Anthony Meyer's "stalking horse" challenge in 1989

and then in the first ballot against Heseltine a year later, is due to expand on his comments later this month in a television interview with Sir Robin Day. Younger tells the *Diary*: "In a way it is true that Mrs Thatcher was out of touch by



her last year. But I will set my remarks in the context of her extraordinary success, which was due to certain qualities that combined with events and luck."

Younger is by no means ashamed of the campaign he ran for her. "We ran a very good and strong campaign. We won, but just not by enough." Others might think that having a campaign manager who thought his leader should have retired long ago might explain why she lost.

Wall artist

A CARTOONIST'S fame tends to be as transitory as the publications he appears in. But Sir David Low, the creator of Colonel Blimp, is to be honoured more indebitly with an English Heritage blue plaque. His is only the second to be awarded to a 20th century cartoonist.

The plaque will be unveiled later this month by Kenneth Baker

at the cartoonist's former flat in Melbury Court, Kensington High Street. The choice of a Tory minister to conduct the ceremony might seem inappropriate for a notably left-wing cartoonist, but Baker is something of a cartoon collector, specialising in unflattering caricatures of himself.

Many of Low's images have passed the test of time, particularly the TUC cartoon, which is in use by illustrators to this day. Mike Butler from the Cartoon Arts Trust is quietly approving of the honour to Low, who died in 1962. "It's rather more distinguished than having a pub named after you like Giles," he says.

Having a breakdown

MEMBERS of the Royal College of Psychiatrists were looking forward to a tranquil celebration of their 150th anniversary in Gloucester. A trip to the hospital where the college's first meeting was held in 1841 was an obvious high point. But the delegates were horrified by the boarded-up shell that greeted them.

Professor Hugh Freeman, editor of *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, says: "It was deplorable to see such a fine classical building in such a state. Since it closed as the Horton Road Hospital two years ago there have been tortuous negotiations between the local health authority and the city council to decide its future. Meanwhile, with every passing day the condition of the building, which is grade-two listed, deteriorates."

Not one vote lost but two: an MP whose party must remain a secret, was contesting in the Kin-cardine and Desdale by-election and offered fulsome congratulations on the stunning flower display in one constituency's hallway. "They're from my man's funeral," she sobbed.



PRIMARY PLURALISM

Education ministers who tell teachers how to teach are rightly resented by the professionals. Most teachers work hard in trying circumstances for modest material rewards. Many understandably resent it when education ministers who may be gone tomorrow, frivolously foist on them the latest conventional wisdom of their party.

Kenneth Clarke is particularly prone to the bull-in-a-china-shop style of politics. So teachers are liable to resent today's *Times* interview in which the education secretary advocates subject-based alternatives to child-centred teaching methods in primary schools. In fact, this is not one of Mr Clarke's cruder interventions. He is not telling teachers how to teach, but asking them to examine how they teach: the distinction is both subtle and vital.

In 1967 the Plowden report established topic work as the state system's pedagogical orthodoxy between the ages of five and 11. Topics or projects — often taught in small groups, utilising assorted activities and sometimes dispensing altogether with formal lessons — have real advantages in motivating young children, as opposed to giving them lessons in half a dozen subjects. Unfortunately, this "child-centred" method of teaching also has real disadvantages.

Results from the new tests at seven will show that British children at state schools are too often failing to achieve their potential. One recent study suggested that many are up to two years behind their Continental counterparts by the time they reach GCSE. For these deficiencies various culprits are blamed, from insufficient resources to social phenomena outside the schools' control. But primary school methods also deserve examination. Mr Clarke wants that, and he wants teachers good enough to be both self-critical and adaptable. Nor is Mr Clarke throwing out the progressive baby with the bathwater. He

specifically rules out legislation. He is pleading for a modification of classroom techniques. That would require primary teachers to acquire a better academic grounding in four or even six subjects, if their pupils are to be equal to the national curriculum later on. Child-centred teaching would still be on offer, but as a means to solid learning, not as an end in itself.

David Hart, the headteachers' spokesman, yesterday advocated specialist teachers to replace class teachers for children aged nine and older. Mr Hart also favours streaming. He believes this would prepare children for the shock of transition from the enjoyable hubbub of the child-centred primary classroom to the competitive, curriculum-based rigour of the secondary school. That is precisely the defect of his proposals: they represent a transition to too much competitiveness at too early an age. They would spell the end, not only of interdisciplinary projects and classroom informality, but also of the generalist conception of primary teaching. Apart from their cost, specialists would change the schools' character, which rests on the all-round classroom teacher.

To meet the requirements of secondary schools charged with introducing the national curriculum, it is not necessary to abandon either progressive methods or the generalist tradition. Mr Clarke's proposals represent a half-way house. Gifted teachers can achieve good results with any method. The average teacher will do best with a mixture of traditional and progressive techniques that complements his or her strengths. The inadequate teacher must not be allowed to get away with providing little more than a baby-sitting service for children under the disguise of progressive, child-centred education. If those are the final conclusions of the debate, Mr Clarke's intervention will be justified.

THE MOSCOW CARD

The European Community has given Yugoslavia's six republics until tomorrow to accept Lord Carrington's plan for an "association of sovereign or independent republics". Today, EC foreign ministers will decide what sanctions to apply should Serbia, as expected, continue to reject the scheme when talks reconvene at the Hague tomorrow. They should start by recognising that the EC has "minimal" influence on Serbia's leaders. If they want the Carrington plan to succeed, they need to exploit the ancient Russian ties to the southern Slavs and bring Moscow into the Hague talks.

The sanctions envisaged range from cancellation of the EC's trade and aid agreements with Yugoslavia to the imposition of an oil embargo. With these sticks would go carrots, in the form of economic assistance for "co-operative" republics.

The frustration in the EC is palpable. Fighting has continued through five months of mediation and ten broken ceasefires. Last week the UN secretary-general, in a report for the UN Security Council, accurately described the EC monitoring effort as undermanned and under-equipped. The Carrington plan is a realistic compromise, a potentially solid foundation for coexistence now accepted by five of the six republics. Serbia's alternative plan for a "mini-Yugoslavia" is nothing but Greater Serbia disguised.

Sanctions, however, may buy peace within the increasingly divided EC, but not within Yugoslavia. In Serbia, sanctions are not only likely to have no more than a symbolic impact, but the symbolism could even work against the peacemakers. By increasing Serbian paranoia, they would reinforce support for its irredentist president, Slobodan Milosevic.

The only exception is an oil embargo. This could, although not immediately, weaken the federal army. But with even Greece, an EC member, opposed, the only way to make

an oil embargo binding would be through the UN. And the UN's existing arms embargo is being violated, suggesting that a ban on oil sales could be enforced only if the UN dispatched a peacekeeping force.

The EC has acted as though Yugoslavia were Western Europe's problem. Such thinking is a hangover from the post-Yalta division of Europe. Such ethnically diverse countries as Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria have high stakes in a peaceful settlement. What is needed is Soviet involvement and, if possible, the involvement of these other states too.

The Serbs will not lightly tangle with Moscow. Belgrade is full of propaganda claiming, falsely, that the Russians still support Mr Milosevic and the army. This shows the importance which both its political and military leaders attach to Moscow's opinion. Soviet pressure on its own is not enough, as was shown by Mr Gorbachev's inability to make the pledges he has twice extracted from the Serbian and Croatian leaders. The now weakened Soviet Union needs to work with the West — and vice versa. Lord Carrington should seek to involve the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Vladimir Petrovsky, who is trusted by both Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin.

The gains of successful joint diplomacy could extend beyond Yugoslavia, setting important precedents for the Soviet republics, where 21 of the internal borders are disputed and each republican declaration of independence breeds demands for self-determination from one or other of the old Union's 130 nationalities. The dilemmas and opportunities of diplomacy in a half-made new Europe need to be tackled more imaginatively than the EC has been doing. A new post-Yalta order should mean flexibility. The EC should be flexible in borrowing extra leverage, particularly when its own is manifestly inadequate.

A MARINE'S TALE

Defence ministries are devoted to the winning of wars. To win wars requires a willingness to sacrifice human life. It also necessitates a ruthlessness in putting collective purpose above individual desires. Armies cannot be democracies. Servicemen, ultimately, must do what they are told.

After the Vietnam disaster, such considerations led to a certain Spenglerian gloom in the West. Modern democratic man was unfit for soldiering. Orders would not be obeyed. Individuals would refuse to risk death. Other, more ruthless powers would ride roughshod over the planet.

This pessimism has been triumphantly disproved. The war in Iraq proved that the West could fight, and win. This was partly due to technological superiority. But it was also due to superior human performance. That resulted from a great leap forward in leadership. Put simply, military organisations found a way of leading by consent. The importance of the individual cog in the workings of the machine was properly recognised. Sensitivity was displayed towards individual fears, hopes and needs. President Saddam Hussein's unwilling conscripts had no chance against such a force.

What, it may be asked, has this to do with the case of Simeon Ferrante? Mr Ferrante is the Royal Marine whose case *The Times* highlights on page three. The facts of the accident that cost him his life are shocking enough. Training as a parachutist, he fell heavily. He then displayed nausea and slurred speech, symptoms of a serious head injury. He was treated with common-sense, still garden painkillers. Three days later, still sick, he jumped again. He again fell heavily.

This time, he never regained consciousness. The tragedy has been compounded by the behaviour of the Ministry of Defence. Only by chance did Mr Ferrante's father ever learn any of this. Since he did, he has been battering his head against a wall of secrecy. The MoD even went to far as to seek an injunction to prevent him from revealing documents on the case, which he had painfully extracted from them, to reporters from Radio 4's *Face the Facts*.

None of the usual litany of excuses for official secrecy applies here. Honesty would not damage national security or harm morale. It would not set costly precedents, discomfort allies, comfort enemies or any of the other 1001 pretexts which prompt the MoD's "no, minister" memoranda to its political bosses. It might involve the naming of the guilty and the shaming of the negligent. That is the least that the Ferrantes, who have unnecessarily lost a son, deserve. Ministers may turn the page. Nato meets this week to discuss future strategy. The national budget for defence will be set out in Wednesday's autumn statement. Why fuss over one dead marine? The answer is simple but compelling: unless fighting men believe that their leaders are concerned about each and every one of them, they will accept their leadership no longer. In that case neither the finest Nato strategy nor lashings of public money will restore their effectiveness.

Before he does anything else today, Tom King, the defence secretary, should come clean with the Ferrantes. He should apologise unconditionally both for his son's death, and for his department's handling of their legitimate quest for the truth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XX Telephone 071-782 5000

The right to die: setting terms for euthanasia debate

From the Reverend Giles Hunt

Sir, You have hit the nail on the head in saying that "euthanasia resembles abortion in Britain before the 1967 Abortion Act" (leading article, October 28).

In 1967, my doctor urged me not to support a petition against the Abortion Bill, for just the reasons you give. I remember he told me of a recent case where he had felt compelled to break the law and procure an abortion for a patient; I had to agree that his reasons were compelling, and that it was wrong that he should have to break the law in order to do what was right.

But a few years later, that same doctor told me that he bitterly regretted the 1967 act. True, it had allowed him to use his discretion without any threat of prosecution hanging over him; but it had also resulted in a vast, and quite unforeseen, increase in the number of requests for abortions (frequently including repeat requests by the same person).

Your suggested parallel with any euthanasia legislation is all too clear. As things stand, there must be cases where a doctor feels morally compelled to withhold treatment or step up the dosage of pain-killing drugs in a way that leaves him open to the risk of criminal charges.

A euthanasia act would put that right. But it would, like the Abortion Act, create far greater ills than it cured. If euthanasia was legalised under honest stringent conditions, can anyone believe that, given the increasing pressure on nursing homes and geriatric services generally, doctors would not soon be pressurised to terminate life without enquiring too deeply whether those conditions had been fulfilled?

We now, in practice, have abortion on demand. Do we really also want euthanasia, which will in practice be on demand from relatives or "carers"?

Yours faithfully,
GILES HUNT,
St Catherine's Vicarage,
Preston Lane,
Faversham, Kent,
October 29.

From Dame Cicely Saunders, GM

Sir, I accept Mr Malcolm Harcourt's statement (letter, October 30) that I have no "evidence" for my belief that there exists a sociological pressure which leads directly from a legalised right to die to a presumed duty to die. Such evidence would be impossible to procure as would be evidence for the reverse proposition.

However, I can quote from a professor of sociology who wrote in 1974, that "The voluntary offer becomes the compulsory. This can happen very happily and easily when instrumental modes dominate and instrumental arguments are as strong as I admit they are for euthanasia. Also there is an intermediate possibility, a kind of soft compulsion very likely in the world of social administration."

I can also add the comments included in a communication from a doctor in The Netherlands who wrote:

Recently an enquiry was held among elderly Dutch people on their views on voluntary euthanasia. Of those living in old-age homes, 43 per cent were against it, but 68 per cent of them were afraid their lives might be ended one day without their consent or knowledge.

I have been listening to people facing the end of their lives since 1948, and have cared for very many since 1958, and I know how they and many of the frail elderly are extremely lacking in a sense of self-worth and value. I do not think they, in a climate of other, negative attitudes towards age, would fail to be pressured by a law such as is envisaged.

However, I too would welcome an enquiry of the sort suggested by Lord Alton in his letter of October 19 and in your own leading article.

Yours faithfully,
CICELY SAUNDERS (Chairman),
St Christopher's Hospice,
31-39 Lawrie Park Road,
Sydenham, SE26,
November 1.

From the Right Reverend M. Wood

Sir, The chilling comparison in your leading article, "euthanasia resembles abortion in Britain before the

1967 Abortion Act", should not go

unchallenged. Euthanasia is still illegal in our country and all doctors are still protected against pressure to practise it.

However, the care and trained chaplains provided by the hospice movement, the fast-growing research and clinical practice of pain relief and the professional nursing work led by the Macmillan Nurses, frequently in conjunction with the NHS, have made us world leaders in palliative care. This has resulted in a diminishing number of requests for "euthanasia on demand".

The Netherlands, where there is markedly less hospice provision, palliative care and pain-relief research and treatment, has tragically chosen the darker road, and the Remmelink report, to which Luke Gormally refers (letter, October 30), casts a long shadow over this debate. Mr Gormally is right to remind us that Orthodox Jews and Muslims agree with the historic Christian churches in upholding the sanctity of human life, which is God-given. It must not be taken away by man.

Euthanasia, like abortion, must not become "absorbed" into our national life.

Yours faithfully,
MALURICE WOOD (Chairman),
Order of Christian Unity,
58 Hanover Gardens, SE11.

From Dr Harry Stopes-Roe

Sir, Mr Luke Gormally argues long but from a false premise. The doctor's only contribution to a valid decision for voluntary euthanasia is to declare that the patient's condition is irreversible. This is a factual statement. The only value judgement comes from the patient: that the condition is not tolerable.

There is one constraint on this. The patient is a part of society and must comply with society's definition of the degree of torment which justifies acceptance of the patient's desire.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY STOPES-ROE,
British Humanist Association,
14 Lamb's Conduit Passage, WC1.

From Professor Thurstan Shaw, FBA

Sir, It is indeed disappointing that Whitehall has failed to respond to the need for a ramblers' charter. You mention the Ridgeway Path, which ends so abruptly and illogically at Ivinghoe Beacon, whereas the prehistoric trackways of which it formed a part continued thence along the chalk to the Norfolk coast, and have been known for centuries as the Icknield Way.

A few years ago the Icknield Way Association worked out a walkers' route, 99 per cent over green lanes, field paths and existing rights of way, to form a long distance footpath of just over a hundred miles covering this stretch of the chalk. It has now been recognised and supported by the Countryside Commission and the six counties through which it passes as a regional recreational route.

As the path, which is to be formally opened next August, links the existing "national trails" of the Ridgeway Path and the Peddars Way, it would be logical for the Icknield Way to be given similar status when the Countryside Commission carries out its review next year.

Yours sincerely,
THURSTAN SHAW (President),
The Icknield Way Association,
37 Hawthorne Road,
Stapleford, Cambridge,
October 28.

From Professor Michael Oliver

Sir, Another component, so far not mentioned in your columns, which should be introduced into the cholesterol-heart disease debate is that reduction of high cholesterol levels by drugs and diets has not reduced total mortality.

Although there is now no doubt that there are fewer heart attacks when cholesterol is reduced from high levels, where the attributable coronary risk is significantly increased, several well conducted and lengthy clinical trials have been consistent in demonstrating that there is also an excess of deaths due to causes other than heart disease. This is a matter of increasing concern to the medical-scientific world.

Cholesterol is a vital component of all body structures and excessive depletion may, in certain circumstances, compromise normal biological function. This doubt should not be ignored by health educationists and should predicate caution regarding the giving of advice to those with only mildly elevated cholesterol levels, where the coronary risk is less.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL OLIVER (Director),
Wynn Institute for
Metabolic Research,
21 Wellington Road, NW8.

From Mrs Emma Sanderson

Sir, I sympathise with Mr O'Brien's dilemma (letter, October 28). Last week I bought a badge in celebration of a friend's birthday. "I am 70", it declared on the front. "Not suitable for children under 36 months" advised the back.

Yours sincerely,
EMMA SANDERSON,
81 Brook Green, W6,
October 28.

Business letters, page 25

Successful ageing

From Dr Diane Driver

Sir, I have recently returned from a visit to the United Kingdom, during which I was able to view your outstanding health and social services system for older people, and would like to point out in response to Thomson Prentice's article ("Waiting into a healthy old age", October 24), that private long-term care insurance in the United States has not, to date, been successful in fully meeting the long-term care needs of the elderly. There is no reason to think it will be any more successful in Great Britain.

Consumers should remember that insurance companies are in the business of minimising their risks, and maximising their profits, not providing the best and most needed care to their customers. Thus most long-term care insurance policies in the United States have severe

restrictions before coverage begins; the policies are quite expensive; and coverage is highly biased toward skilled nursing-home care.

The best insurance the citizens of Great Britain have against the infirmities of old age is their excellent primary health-care system; their remarkable home-help service; and their outstanding program of district health nursing. If every taxpayer would put the sum, between £20 and £58 a month, that long-term care insurance would cost them into their existing exemplary health and social service system, there would be no worry about how they should plan to spend their declining days.

Most sincerely,
DIANE DRIVER
(Co-ordinator, Academic Geriatric Resource Center),
University of California at Berkeley,
140 Warren Hall, Berkeley,
California 94720, USA.

Out of harmony

From Mr Richard Cooke

Sir, May I have a chance to reply to the comments made about me by Franz Weiser-Most in Richard Morrison's article, "A bacon charge to new heights" (October 29)?

I am outraged at the suggestion that the London Philharmonic Choir had continuously gone down. The only times that standards were compromised were when the pressure on the schedule provided was too great for them to manage in sufficient numbers and when the choice of repertoire, crucial to such a choir, was inappropriate for amateurs to present at the high-performance level expected.

Time and time again I told the orchestra's management that too much was demanded. My sound and well-intentioned warnings were

never heeded, and now it seems many have left for other choirs.

Weiser-Most says he does not know why people are making such a big fuss. It is because the choir were happy to have me as their director, because I worked them hard, and gave them a sense of fulfilment, backed up by consistently outstanding press reviews.

They are puzzled to read that I could no longer give enough "time and care". The award-winning recordings, most notably Mahler's 8th Symphony conducted by Klaus Tennstedt and Vaughan Williams's Sea Symphony, conducted by Bernard Haitink, bear testimony to my achievement. I defy anyone to do better.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD COOKE,
Sudbury House, Wrotham,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Any advance?

From Mr Hunter Davies

Sir, Bernard Levin ("A pen as mighty as the words", *Saturday Review*, October 26) accuses me of "envy" and "sour grapes" for describing as obscene the £625,000 advance which Michael Holroyd received for his Shaw biography. It is a fine piece of work, though I do not share Mr Levin's view that it is an "almost inhuman endeavour". Whatever that means.

I consider the advance obscenely huge for several reasons. Over 90 per cent of our published authors

earn under £10,000 per year. The imbalance in a publishing house caused by paying such a huge sum for one project makes them likely to earn even less. All energies are put into getting back some of the big money.

Small independent publishing houses cannot afford such advances, without going into debt, and are likely to lose fashionable authors when greedy agents encourage them to go elsewhere for the fantasy money.

Yours,
HUNTER DAVIES,
11 Boscawen Road, NW5.

Soviet orphans

From Mr Melvyn Rose

and Mr David Dean

Sir, As honorary consultants to the Russian ministry of education, who have just returned from an inspection of establishments for children and adolescents from St Petersburg to Siberia, we were extremely interested in the comments of your correspondents today (October 25).

Undoubtedly, the "children's homes" that we saw, the "vocational" school and the school for "mental defectives" had dedicated staff operating under devoted leadership. Despite the well-reported general impoverishment, the children were well fed and cared for. This is not so consistently the case among the "special" schools, which seem closest to our experience to the approved schools that once existed here.

It was obvious to us that the majority of special school principals are

desperate to change their regimes; indeed, some have already altered their practice in order to focus on the psycho-social needs of their children. However, they lack knowledge of the necessary concepts of child care and developmental psychology which would help them to orientate their practice appropriately.

Government departments need to be made aware of the separate needs of perhaps hundreds of thousands of children in residential establishments. Some 80 per cent of the inmates of junior penal colonies have graduated from these establishments. We visited one of these places in Siberia — an horrific experience.

We believe that three quarters of these children might not even be in

care in Britain. However, there is a desperate shortage of families prepared to foster youngsters and, of course, no effective system of supporting those who might. A massive educational programme is necessary.

Current response to the plethora of needs demonstrated by these children derives from a popular view that unacceptable behaviour and immature functioning merely needs to be contained, and that moral and work training will re-orientate them appropriately.

It would be comparatively easy to turn these institutions into places of healing. The Russians must develop systems appropriate to their own culture, but we could certainly help them to do this quickly.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN ROSE
(Executive Director),
The Peter Harrow Foundation,
DAVID DEAN (Principal),
Raddery School,
14 Charterhouse Square, EC1.

Pathways to the open country

From the Chairman of the Ramblers' Association, Scotland

Sir, You are wrong to suggest ("Paths to glory", October 28) that a comprehensive network of local paths is developing around Britain's towns and villages. Many visitors to Scotland are amazed to find that rights of way are not shown on Ordnance Survey maps.

Local authorities in Scotland are not required by statute to produce definitive right-of-way maps. When they struggle to gather the information needed to produce such maps local landowners and farmers threaten legal action.

As a result we have very poor footpath networks around the places where people live and work. Many people now believe lowland Scotland is one of the worst areas in Europe for enjoying a quiet walk along a footpath.

In the Stirling constituency of Mr Michael Forsyth, the Scottish minister responsible for sport and recreation, for example, the average density is 0.2 miles of path per square mile of land. The average density in England is ten times greater.

Scotland requires a straightforward administrative procedure to enable local authorities to establish rights of way formally and record these on definitive maps. Equally important, new financial arrangements are needed to encourage farmers to manage local footpath networks.

All this will require new legislation. Unfortunately, while England and Wales now enjoy the benefits of the Right of Way Act 1980, Scottish Office ministers seem indifferent to the need for new access legislation. North of the border public rights of access continue to be subservient to private landowner interests and the citizen's charter is a distant image.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GROSZ
(Chairman, The Ramblers' Association, Scotland),
10 Rosebery Place, Edinburgh,
Livingstone, West Lothian,
November 1.

From Mr Clive Trounman

Sir, As Jews and Zionists we are all deeply committed to the welfare and security of the state of Israel. We believe that current Israeli policies in the occupied territories and Arab/Palestinian responses create a spiral of violence which not only causes unnecessary death and destruction but generates a moral decline all round which makes the process of compromise more difficult.

Now that negotiations between Israel, her Arab neighbours and the Palestinians are beginning, we call on the parties to base their policies on the principles of respect for territorial integrity and recognition of the national rights of all peoples in the region.

This includes Palestinian recognition of Israel's pre-1967 borders and the cessation of all acts of terror against both Israel and Jews elsewhere. At the same time Israel must cease appropriation of Arab land and its policy of settlement in the occupied territories, must withdraw from those territories, and must recognise the Palestinian claim to full national self-determination.

Only on the basis of such policies can the peace which all parties say they desire be genuinely attained.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE TROUBMAN
(British Chairman, Mapam),
NOMI SHARRON (New Outlook representative in Britain),
PAULINE LEVITS
(British Chairman, Peace Now),
37a Broadhurst Gardens, NW6,
November 1.

Weather vacuum

From Mrs T. J. Sidwell

Sir, On a recent flight from Italy into Gatwick (Mrs Matthew's letter, October 31) our Britannia Airways pilot not only gave regular and informative bulletins on the weather over Europe but, prior to approach, gave warning of fog expected in many areas of England and cautioned his passengers to take care on their onward journeys.

Possibly a weather bulletin on the various screens at the airport — already implemented at Pisa airport — would be the solution.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE SIDWELL,
Windsford, 36 Pepper Street,
Inkberrow, Worcestershire,
October 31.

Hidden barb

From Mrs Emma Sanderson

Sir, I sympathise with Mr O'Brien's dilemma (letter, October 28). Last week I bought a badge in celebration of a friend's birthday. "I am 70", it declared on the front. "Not suitable for children under 36 months" advised the back.

Yours sincerely,
EMMA SANDERSON,
81 Brook Green, W6,
October 28.

Business letters, page 25



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 2: The Queen, accompanied by The Prince Edward, attended the Rugby World Cup Final between England and Australia at Twickenham.

Before the match, Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, visited the dressing rooms of the England and Australia teams. Mrs John Dugdale, the Right Hon Sir Robert Fellowes, Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, and Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer were in attendance.

After the match, The Queen presented the Rugby World Cup to the Captain of the Australian team, and medallions to the members of both teams.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 2: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon visited the Olympic Class Qualifiers at Grafton Water Sailing Club, West Ferry, Huntingdon.

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KENSINGTON PALACE
November 2: The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Hugh Merrill at the Memorial

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit the Penny Royal Almshouses in Old Windsor at 3.00.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of Help the Aged, will attend the Golden Awards luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 12.35.

The Duchess of York will attend the departure of Queen Elizabeth II from London Heathrow at 10.00.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a joint presentation by the Forces Group, Moray Group, Ogilvy School Group, and Buckle Group at Burgie House, Moray, at 11.05.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit Cromwell's House, Ely, at 9.45; will open a sheltered housing scheme, the Royal Alexandra Road, Wisbech, at 11.00; visit Wisbech Grammar School at 12.30; visit Wisbech and Fenland Museum at 3.00; and Peckover House at 3.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as President of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School, will attend a luncheon at the National Association of British and Irish Millers, 21 Arlington Street, W1, at 12.45.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, will attend a concert at the Festival Hall at 7.25.

Marriages

Sir Robert Sherston-Baker and Miss P.J. Baird
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of Our Lady, St Martin, Jersey, of Sir Robert Sherston-Baker, only son of the late Sir Humphrey Sherston-Baker and of Lady Leach, of St Saviour, Jersey, to Miss Vanessa Baird, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.E. Baird, of Grouville, Falmouth, Cornwall, and of Miss E. E. Fitzgerald officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mr Hugh Merrill, Quentin R. Johnson was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J. Levent-Shenley and Mrs P. Carleton-Gane
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 2, at the Church of the Blessed Mary, Upham, of Mr John Levent-Shenley and Mrs Phillida Carleton-Gane. The Rev Simon Wilkinson officiated.

Dinners

Ayrshire Yeomanry Association
The Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran was the principal guest at the annual officers' dinner of the Ayrshire (Earl of Carrick's Own) Yeomanry, Colonel J. Henderson, Honorary Colonel of the Ayrshire Squadron of The Queen's Own Yeomanry, presided. Lieutenant-Colonel N.J.F. Dalrymple-Hamilton, Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Yeomanry, was among those present.

Association of Lancastrians in London
Sir Frank Cooper, President of the Association of Lancastrians in London, accompanied by Lady Cooper, presided at the annual dinner held on Saturday at the Berkeley Hotel, Worthing.

Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce
Mr E.C. Ray, Chairman of the Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce, presided at the Annual Dinner of the Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, October 31, 1991. Mr George J.D. Evans was elected President and Mr Richard Foster Vice President.

Birthdays today

Mr C.J. Bacon, headmaster, Dean Close School, Cheltenham, 54; Dr Jean Balfour, former chairman, Countryside Commission for Scotland, 64; Mr Walter Cronkite, American broadcaster, 75; Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Cunningham, 70; Mrs John Dugdale, a Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, 68; Mr Russell Evans, company chairman, 69; Professor A.J. Forry, principal, Stirling University, 63; Mr R.A. Henderson, former chairman, Kleinwort Benson Group, 74; Viscount Hereford, 59; Mr Elgar Howarth, musician, 56; Professor Jeffrey Howell, professor of public law, 53; Sir Anthony Lousada, solicitor, 84; Canon Roy McKay, 91; Air Commodore Philippa Marshall, former director, WRAF, 71; Professor Joseph Rotblat, physicist, 83; Air Commodant David, Anne Stephens, former director, WRAF, 79; the Dowager Lady Wakehurst, 92.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.G. Davies and Miss S.L.A. Meghriche
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Dr and Mrs Roy Davies, of West Clarendon, Surrey, and Sara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean Meghriche, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr B. Dingwall and Miss P.J. Baird
The engagement is announced between Bruce, younger son of Dr and Mrs Ian Dingwall, 53 Woodhall Road, Colinton, Edinburgh, and previously Trinidad, and Philippa Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Hardie, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

Mr S.P. Francis and Miss S. Coetsee
The engagement is announced between Stephen Francis, of London, and Sonia, youngest daughter of Mr Frans and Mrs Anna-Marie Jenny Coetsee, of Pretoria, South Africa.

Mr J.J. Kennington and Miss J.L. Tralls
The engagement is announced between Justin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ivor Kennington, of Wimbledon, London, and Joanna, daughter of the late Mr William Tralls and of Mrs Yvonne Tralls, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Mr M.A. Roosen and Miss J. Curtis
Mr Michael Anthony Roosen wishes to announce his engagement to Jane Francis, only daughter of Mrs Sheila Curtis, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Mr P.W. Scott-Bowden and Miss C.A. Mangham
The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of Major General and Mrs L. Scott-Bowden, of Ewelme, Oxfordshire, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.J. Mangham, of Wethersfield, Essex.

Casimir Lewy

A memorial service for Casimir Lewy, MA, PhD, FBA, will be held in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, on Saturday, November 23, 1991, at 2.15pm.

Appointment

Miss Elizabeth Steel to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the Northern Circuit.

Royal Society of Portrait Painters

At a General Meeting of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters on October 31, 1991, Mr George J.D. Evans was elected President and Mr Richard Foster Vice President.

OBITUARIES

SIR RONALD SWAYNE

Sir Ronald Swayne, MC, former chairman of Overseas Containers Ltd (OCL), died on October 29 aged 73. He was born on May 11, 1918.

AS A driving force in Overseas Containers Ltd (OCL) from 1965 and its chairman from 1973 to 1982, Ronald Swayne played an influential role in the introduction of containerisation. An ex-commando and survivor of the St Nazaire raid, he brought tenacity and skill to this task which, once early traumas had been overcome, made OCL one of the most visible names in the field. But the first years were tough; much inevitably went wrong, and many of the more conservative spirits in shipping had a vested interest in seeing OCL, and the revolution it represented, fail. It was then that Swayne's staunchness and instinctive comradeship regularly rallied the spirits of his hard-pressed colleagues.

Ronald Oliver Carliss Swayne was educated at Bromsgrove School and University College, Oxford, which he attended before, and for a year after, the war, finally taking his MA in 1946. At Oxford, as the third of the three formidable rugby-playing Swayne brothers, his chances of a blue were curtailed when he concussed himself crash-landing a University Air Squadron plane. When war came in 1939 he broke off his studies to join the Herefordshire Regiment before transferring to the commandos in 1940.

Serving as a lieutenant with No 1 Commando Swayne took part, on the night of March 27-28, 1942, in the raid on St Nazaire whose aim was to smash its U-boat pens and deny the use of its dry dock facilities to the German battleship *Tirpitz*, thus preventing her from operating against allied shipping in the Atlantic. With him were a dozen soldiers, mostly from south Wales and his native West Country. Their flimsy motor launch was at the rear of the two assaulting columns which, led by the destroyer *Campbeltown*, sailed into the mouth of the Loire just before midnight on March 27. Reaching the port a few critical minutes after *Campbeltown*



had rammed the dry dock, they thus met the full fire of the German defences.

His naval commander, Lieutenant Ian Henderson, made two attempts to get alongside, but decided that a third would be suicidal and gave the order to turn for home. Evading the coastal guns, the launch reached the open sea but just before dawn, 45 miles out, the launch was intercepted by the German destroyer *Jaguar*, which came on it out of the morning mist. A fight of a most unequal character now ensued. Henderson was soon killed; Ser-

geant Thomas Durrant, though hit many times, continued to fire his Lewis gun in answer to German demands to surrender. As dawn broke, Swayne, coming up from below with fresh ammunition, found 20 of the 28 naval and commando personnel either drowned, or dead or wounded on board, and the deck awash with blood. The only officer unhurt, he called out to the German captain in a seemingly casual voice: "I'm afraid we can't go on."

The destroyer captain took the dead and wounded aboard, and

returned to St Nazaire. As the British survivors were lifted ashore, he called his ship's company to attention and saluted. Later a German officer visited the prisoners' commanding officer, Colonel Newman, in their POW camp at Rennes to bring to his attention Durrant's gallant conduct. Swayne made his own eye-witness recommendation and Sergeant Durrant was posthumously awarded one of the five VCs given for the raid. Swayne was himself decorated with the MC in 1945.

Following a brief return to Oxford to collect his degree, Swayne joined the Liverpool-based Ocean steamship company of which he became managing director in 1955, at the same time becoming partner of Alfred Holt. His principal responsibility was the Ocean group's important Australian trade and this experience, and the good relations he established with Australians (to whom a Pom could not always guarantee to recommend himself) was to stand him in good stead when the container revolution got under way.

Cargo liners had dominated their field of sea transport for 100 years before the needs of traders made a radical change necessary. The US armed forces had already experimented with transporting cargo in large boxes during the Korean war, in the aftermath of that conflict it became abundantly obvious that the container, and door-to-door, as opposed to quay-to-quay, transport would sweep away the old cargo liner.

But the concept required specially designed vessels and dockside facilities — a revolution in handling cargo afloat and ashore. As a founder director of OCL and full-time member of the initially small executive team charged with the task of applying the new technology of container shipping, Swayne's task was formidable. The trade between Europe and Australia was chosen as the first to be fully containerised, and Australia was already his second home. Much of the burden of making the operational and political choices in Australia therefore fell to Swayne.

Once the early traumas were overcome, and the skills which Swayne had deployed in his early years as a shipowner, and in his association with many nationalities in shipping consortia began to bear fruit, the new concept became accepted and profitable. In 1973, Swayne took over from the first chairman of OCL, Sir Andrew Crichton, and led the company with his own brand of humanity, good humour and common-sense for nine years. During this period he became president of the General Council of British Shipping and president of the association of EC shipowners. He retired in 1982, having by then presided over a period of years during which his company became one of the two or three consistently most profitable container shipping companies in the world. Swayne was knighted in 1979 for his pioneering achievements at Overseas Containers Ltd. He was also a director of the National Freight Company from 1973 to 1985.

As those who heard him in his POW camp might testify, Ronnie Swayne was an excellent flute player, far above the amateur standard which was all he claimed. In Liverpool after the war, it was not long before he had joined the board of the city's Philharmonic Orchestra and instituted a fund for bringing otherwise unaffordable soloists to its programmes.

When he moved to London, he was quickly recruited by the Earl of Harewood, whom he had met when they were both prisoners of war for the New Philharmonic. He worked for it for a number of years, before joining the board of English National Opera. He may not have been a natural fund-raiser, although he used to bring influential people to performances, but he was judiciously enthusiastic, full of well-based comment and keen to get things done. Music was a great love and he had a quiet pride in the success of his composer son, Giles Swayne.

He married, in 1941, Charmian, daughter of Major W. E. P. Carnes. She died in 1944. He leaves his son and daughter.

IRWIN ALLEN



Groucho's later solo appearances, without brothers, in *Double Dynamite* (1948) and *A Girl in Every Port* (1951), and later still the Marx Brothers' final appearance in the same film, if not the same

sequence, a bizarre hodgepodge called *The Story of Mankind* (1957). At the other end of the scale from these comic extravaganzas, he began in the early Fifties to produce, and sometimes also write and direct, a series of ambitious documentaries concerned with the environment, most notably *The Sea Around Us* (for which he won an Academy Award in 1953) and *The Animal World* (1956).

From this point he returned to feature films, usually with a strong element of science allied to their fiction. His first big success in this genre was a new version of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* (1960) which he produced, directed and co-wrote. Although the critics received it with less than total ecstasy, the public responded well enough to keep him on the same track in two similar

subjects, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, which spawned a very successful television series of the same title, and the charming *Five Weeks in a Balloon*. Once initiated, his television ventures continued to proliferate, including also *Time Tunnel*, *Land of the Giants* and the long-running *Lost in Space*.

None of these films, let alone the television series, could be described as high-tech, in fact their charm often resided in the imaginative fattiness of the fantasy element. But by the early Seventies Allen was about to enter the big league himself, with his first major disaster movie, *The Poseidon Adventure*, about what happens to a boatful of passengers when their cruise ship is turned turtle in a freak storm. This was quickly followed by the

best remembered of all Allen's films, *The Towering Inferno*, which gathered together a starry cast inside and outside a blazing San Francisco skyscraper, lifting off its characters in strict reverse order of their star billing. For this Allen not only produced, but himself directed, the spectacular action scenes of subsequent films *The Swarm* concerns an infestation of killer bees, *Beyond the Poseidon Adventure* tells the warring world what happened to other people in other parts of the flooded liner, and *The Day the World Ended* speaks for itself.

Allen continued to be active with various theatrical and television projects until last year, when his health persuaded him to retire to his Malibu Beach home. He is survived by his wife Sheila.

John Wijngaards

Learning to live with life after death

WHERE do the dead go when they pass over? The question was bound to haunt many a mind as the traditional days of All Saints and All Souls (November 1 and 2) were remembered in churches and churchyards throughout the country.

Perhaps there is nowhere to go. Perhaps people, burdened with fear, want and sorrow, just dance into the arms of death, as Schopenhauer said, wondering what the tragic comedy of life is supposed to mean — and finding out it ends in nothing. Those who have died are then shadows of the past. Nothing remains of them except for the loving scratches or hideous scars they etched on our world, and our memories.

Perhaps our inner *atma* is made of incorruptible stuff, as Hindus maintain. At death the spark of our soul then divests itself of one mortal body to start life again in another disposable shell. Our deceased relatives and friends could then be at any station on the spiralling track of reincarnation. They might even have reached their destination, *nirvana*, where they merge back into the infinite ocean of *Atma*.

Perhaps the dead roam as shades in the netherworld, populating the Old Testament *sheol*. The psalms describe this abyss under the earth as a house of darkness, a bottomless pit, a land of forgetfulness. All the dead can do is bide their time till their fate will be sealed at the universal judgment.

Or perhaps popular Chris-

tian imagination was right. On the walls and stained-glass windows of our cathedrals it painted heaven and hell as two distinct, physical places where, somehow or other, life continues as on this earth, with perpetual torment for evildoers and unending bliss for the saints. Those who have died are then in either of these awesome realms, awaiting our arrival. "I never spoke with God," wrote Emily Dickinson, "nor visited in heaven; yet certain am I of the spot as if the chart were given."

Could it be that all these approaches, though containing fragments of the truth, actually miss the point? We have no evidence of any "supernatural" world distinct from the world we live in now; pace Francis Thompson's hallowed phrase: "O world invisible, we view thee: O world intangible, we touch thee"; about which more later. A passing over to another physical location is out of the question. Whatever happens to us at death can hardly involve moving house to an imitation earth — be it *sheol*, heaven or hell.

What exactly do we lose at death? The religious instinct of the ages accepts a dimension of spirit that goes beyond physics and chemistry. Life is more than digesting food, viewing TV and wrestling with computer data. If we open ourselves to its more mysterious horizons, life is found to touch a reality that is beyond time and place. This is the numinous, the *atma*, the Beyond: not a separate location, but an undreamed of,

vast horizon. It justifies the suspicion that not all we are is lost at death.

I can go further. Suppose for a moment that windows to transcendence and divinity have been opened to us in major religious events, then we may suddenly find that the divine pervades the marrow of our bones. For me, as a believing Christian, the culmination of disclosure came in Jesus Christ. Through him, as John's Gospel puts it, God lives in us. He is our life and our resurrection.

What about the reality of this divine dimension in us? What evidence do we have for it. Can it be proved? The answer is no. It cannot be proved, but it can be perceived. This is what Francis Thompson sensed when he said: "O world intangible, we touch thee." Progressive steps of insight do not create what is seen, but uncover new layers of reality.

The Sufi mystic Al-Ghazali perceived the sun in the middle of the night: "I sat in my room in the darkness and saw a patch of light on my carpet. I looked up and saw that the light which reflected from the mirror, had fallen in through my open window and shone at the moon. I realised its light was itself a reflection from the sun."

Ghazali then goes on to call all light "the face of God". The more we immerse ourselves in light — physical, mental, spiritual, the more we see God and see with the eyes of God; which is, of course, a meta-

phor. But then, speaking in images, if there is a Transcendent, why can we not credit him/her/it with at least as much intelligence and concern as we have?

Where do the dead go when they pass over? I believe that the light of God that kindled them during their lifetimes, still holds them. They are being held, as in a mirror, with all the individual traits that made them what they were. Their honourable scars will endure rather than their medals, degrees or diplomas. The wrong they have done will hurt, and be filtered clean. Those who died continue to live in God's love with a vitality beyond our vision, but none the less extremely real. Just as an idea in our mind may take on a different format as a spoken word, a message in binary code or a printed text on paper — and yet remain the same idea, so the divine dimension in us may assume different forms and remain alive.

We can meaningfully speak of heaven and hell, as long as we remember that they are dimensions of life, not locations in outer space. We can say the dead merge back into God if we realise she/he is an ocean of love who does not swamp our littleness. Properly understood, the time-honoured phrase coined by Kahlil Gibran puts it rather well: those who have died live in God.

The writer is a theologian and director of the Catholic spiritual resources centre Housatop.

Nature notes

REDWINGS from Scandinavia are back in Britain for the winter. They are like song-thrushes with a bright red underwing which is very conspicuous when they fly up. Migrating overhead at night they utter long, thin cries. Feeding on the berries in hawthorn hedges, they more often use a call like the clucking note of blackbirds, but with a strong nasal twang to it. Snipe that may have nested near the redwings in summer are arriving in wet fields and marshy land throughout the country; they rest for much of the day, half-hidden in reeds or grass, and at dusk come out and probe for worms with their long beaks.

There has been a dramatic change in the trees since last week ago. Most have reached a peak of colour, and many are



already bare, particularly the limes. On the roadsides, blackthorn hedges are unbroken clouds of yellow. Mountain ash trees are a muddy pink, low-growing brambles are like a red carpet. The first oaks are turning, the taller ash trees are still green, but many ash saplings have shed their leaves in the last few days. There are still blackberries on the wild privet, and blood-red berries on the guelder roses.

DJM

Memorial services

Sir Raymond Brown The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Hugh Merrill at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Raymond Brown held on Saturday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Rev John Pridmore officiated. Mr Ralph Gabriel Gibran and Mr Martin Brown, son, read from *Remembering With Love* by Helen Steiner Rice. Sir Ernest Harrison gave an address.

Professor Charles Wilson A memorial service for Professor Charles Wilson was held on Saturday in Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge. The Rev Ross Hunt, chaplain of the college, and the Right Rev Simon Phipps officiated. Dr Ladislav Wilson, son, read the lesson and Dr Alan Sharpe, fellow, read from the works of Tennyson. Mr Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Leipzig, 1847; Paul Delacroix, painter, Paris, 1825; George Peabody, American philanthropist, London, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, killed in action, France, 1918.

King's College, Cambridge. Dr George Pattison, Dean of Chapel, officiated and Professor P. Baxton, Provost, led the bidding prayer. Canon David Isitt read the lesson. Dr C.H.W. Rylands, CH, read from the works of John Donne and Mr G. Christopher Morris, read from Alexander Vidler's autobiography. Lord Annan gave an address.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Guido Reni, painter, Bologna, 1575; William III, reigned with Mary II 1689-20, and after her death until 1702. Haguenau, 1650; Augustus, writer, Farnham, Surrey, 1740. DEATHS: John Benbow, admiral, died of his wounds, Port Royal, Jamaica, 1702; Charles Churchill, poet, Boulogne, 1764; Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Leipzig, 1847; Paul Delacroix, painter, Paris, 1825; George Peabody, American philanthropist, London, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, killed in action, France, 1918.

6.00 **Celestial** - 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** starting with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55, presented live from the BBC's national conference in Birmingham. 6.55 **Robert Kilroy-Gibb** chairs a debate on the future of the world. 7.00 **Hot Chefs**: Chef Paul Gayer prepares 'fried' fruit and ginger pudding with vanilla custard sauce. 7.10 **News**: regional news and weather. 7.15 **Playdays** (r) 10.25 **The Family News**: Cartoon adventures with the Loch Ness monsters (r). 10.35 **Antiques Roadshow**: Game: Made in England. Hugh Hodge carefully handles Chelsea, Derby and Worcester porcelain. 10.40 **News**: regional news and weather. 11.05 **No Kidding**: Mike Smith hosts the family quiz show. 11.20 **Playdays** (r). 11.25 **Family News**: The pop singer Alison Moyet and Russell Grant spend a day with a New York family. 11.30 **Playdays** (r). 11.35 **Family News**: Includes at 12.00 **News**: regional news and weather. 12.20 **Pabbie** MML Lunchtime conversation with Judi Siders and guests Richard Stille and Peter Skellern. 12.55 **Regional News** and weather. 1.00 **One O'Clock News**: Weather. 1.30 **Neighbours** (r) (CeeFax). 1.50 **Go for Gold**: Henry Kelly returns to host the fifth series of the pan-European knockout quiz in which contestants from 21 countries will compete for the prize of a trip to Mexico. 2.15 **Knock Landing With a Heavy Heart**: West Coast Dallas spin-off. 2.30 **Letter Than News**: Furniture renovation (r). 3.25 **The Hogan** 3.50 **Children's BBC**: beginning with *Blue Peter* (r). 4.00 **Harlem Scam**: Picture book series. 4.15 **Adventures of Mighty Mouse**: Cartoon (r). 4.25 **Piggy**: Animated musical fun. 4.35 **Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles**: (CeeFax). 4.45 **Newsround**: Juliet Morris with results of the Radio Times/Newsround Young Photographer competition. 5.05 **Blue Peter** (r) (CeeFax). 5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (CeeFax). 5.45 **One O'Clock News**: Weather. 6.00 **Six O'Clock News**: Weather. 6.30 **Regional News**: Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r) (CeeFax).

Host with a difference: Selma Scott presents *Wogan* (7.00pm)

7.00 **Wogan** with Selma Scott, who begins her two-week stint by talking to the actor Tom Conti, the photographer Lord Lichfield and the flamboyant chef Keith Floyd. 7.30 **Watchdog**: In this series the programme of the consumer magazine, Bill Hargrave investigates, selling techniques in the property leasing business, and John Stapleton finds out how the water supply companies treat their customers. 8.00 **Telly Addicts**: Noel Edmonds hosts the quiz testing families' knowledge of television programmes. 8.30 **Sea Trek**: The Hawaiian Islands. Concluding their series of fascinating underwater adventures, Martha Holmes and Mike McGarry listen to the eerie singing of humpback whales and watch transformed as a mother and her newborn baby swim into view. (CeeFax). 8.50 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (CeeFax) Weather. Regional news and weather. 9.30 **Panorama**: Deprived or Deprived? Jane Corbin looks out the possible causes for last month's riots in a number of Britain's inner cities and asks what can be done to prevent further unrest. 10.10 **Capricorn**: Off of OZ. Steven Seagal's innovative musical police drama series. Gains (Mick Murray) becomes involved in the plight of the homeless (s). Northern Ireland: 29 Bedford Street. 10.40 **The Stand**. 11.00 **The Victorian Kitchen**: Pissles. Ruth Mott picks a Mrs Beeton picnic for 40 people (r). (CeeFax) Northern Ireland: 11.20 **Cop Rock**: 11.30 **News**: 11.40 **News**: 11.50 **News**: 12.00 **News**: 12.10 **News**: 12.20 **News**: 12.30 **News**: 12.40 **News**: 12.50 **News**: 1.00 **News**: 1.10 **News**: 1.20 **News**: 1.30 **News**: 1.40 **News**: 1.50 **News**: 2.00 **News**: 2.10 **News**: 2.20 **News**: 2.30 **News**: 2.40 **News**: 2.50 **News**: 3.00 **News**: 3.10 **News**: 3.20 **News**: 3.30 **News**: 3.40 **News**: 3.50 **News**: 4.00 **News**: 4.10 **News**: 4.20 **News**: 4.30 **News**: 4.40 **News**: 4.50 **News**: 5.00 **News**: 5.10 **News**: 5.20 **News**: 5.30 **News**: 5.40 **News**: 5.50 **News**: 6.00 **News**: 6.10 **News**: 6.20 **News**: 6.30 **News**: 6.40 **News**: 6.50 **News**: 7.00 **News**: 7.10 **News**: 7.20 **News**: 7.30 **News**: 7.40 **News**: 7.50 **News**: 8.00 **News**: 8.10 **News**: 8.20 **News**: 8.30 **News**: 8.40 **News**: 8.50 **News**: 9.00 **News**: 9.10 **News**: 9.20 **News**: 9.30 **News**: 9.40 **News**: 9.50 **News**: 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Hawker predicts rise in earnings

HAWKER Siddeley, the embattled electrical engineering group, will forecast a small increase in earnings per share, to 41.4p, for the year to end-December when it publishes its main defence against the £1.4 billion bid from BTR tomorrow.

Pre-tax profits will be slightly down, from £140 million to not less than £130 million, after higher interest charges and more than £30 million of reorganisation costs.

Hawker confirmed the forecasts after they were published in *The Sunday Times*, from a leaked copy of a confidential internal report from Price Waterhouse, the accountant, which, Hawker said, disappeared during transfer by courier to the offices of SG Warburg, its adviser.

The forecasts are slightly better than analysts had expected and Hawker said they compared well with the performance of other manufacturing groups during the recession.

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Overseas rate cuts expected

Further cuts in international interest rates are expected that would make it easier for the government to make a further cut in Britain.

America's Federal Reserve Board is widely expected to cut a further half-point from rates after the monthly meeting of its open market committee tomorrow to counter a series of economic statistics suggesting that recovery is too slow.

The dollar fell to its lowest since March and share prices touched new highs on Wall Street on Friday in anticipation of a cut. The Southwest Bank of St Louis, which likes to lead interest rate movements, cut its prime rate by a quarter of a point, to 7.75 per cent, on Friday.

There was also speculation at the weekend in Tokyo that the Bank of Japan, which is known to be considering a cut in its official discount rate, could cut the rate from 5.5 to 5 per cent this week.

BT brokers to withdraw forecasts

Warburg Securities and other brokers connected with the government's sale of £5 billion-worth of BT shares will withdraw their forecasts of this year's BT profits after Iain Vallance, the chairman, reported lower than expected half-time pre-tax profits of £1.61 billion.

This has embarrassed brokers connected with the sale, which include Barclays de Zoete Wedd and UBS Phillips & Drew. They are not allowed to issue fresh forecasts so near to the share sale this month.

Warburg's forecast of £3.35 billion for the year to end-March is, however, now out of line with forecasts by independent brokers.

Patrick Wellington, of County NatWest, a leading analyst, cut his forecast to £3.2 billion after the interim results, which caused a fall in BT's share price.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7485 (+0.0373)
German mark 2.9060 (-0.0030)
Exchange index 90.8 (+0.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1952.7 (+23.4)
FT-SE 100 2549.5 (+34.8)
New York Dow Jones 3056.35 (+51.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 25044.24 (+137.81)

Lilley rejects trade department reform

CBI splits with government on industrial role

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's relations with British industry worsened markedly yesterday when Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, rejected calls from the Confederation of British Industry for a wholesale refocusing of the government's industrial priorities.

Mr Lilley will be under pressure to respond to the CBI's proposals for the government's industrial work, and especially for the future role of his own trade and industry department, when he addresses the CBI's annual conference in Bournemouth today.

The CBI returned to the attack yesterday when John Banham, CBI director general, said a number of initiatives had come out of Whitehall "that have made it more difficult for British manufacturers to compete than would have been desirable".

The conference will be considering a major CBI document on manufacturing industry that calls for refocusing of the industry department with a "clear and unequivocal" role in the regulation of com-

petition and encouraging government action that will increase the international competitiveness of British business.

The CBI believes that the current DTI, encompassing both promoting British interests and regulating business, is not suited to such a role, and is now specifically calling for the creation of a department of enterprise that would give industry a much more adequate voice in both Whitehall and in the EC.

Mr Lilley has refused to be drawn on this point, which is much closer to the thinking on industry of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, though Mr Lilley welcomes much of the report. Mr Heseltine will address the CBI conference tomorrow.

Significantly, Mr Lilley did not address the CBI's points on government-business relations in a letter to all Conservative MPs, which he unprecedentedly asked the CBI to publish for him yesterday. The letter, which is highly defensive in tone, accused the media of not reporting the key messages of the CBI's report, with which he agreed.

But speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*,

Mr Lilley made considerable efforts to distance himself from some of the instances of which the CBI report was critical, arguing that he had taken place before he moved to the department.

He rejected uncompromisingly the CBI's calls for change in his department. He said: "The suggestion that changes in the structure of government departments are going to do away with real problems is a mistake."

Mr Banham said he would welcome a detailed response from Mr Lilley today to the CBI's call, but said he would be surprised if one were forthcoming. Sir Brian Corby, CBI president, said the CBI would want to know in precise terms which parts of the document, *Competing with the World's Best*, he agreed with and those with which he disagreed, and the reasons why.

Proposals for a new deal between government and business will be put forward today by Graham Mather, general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

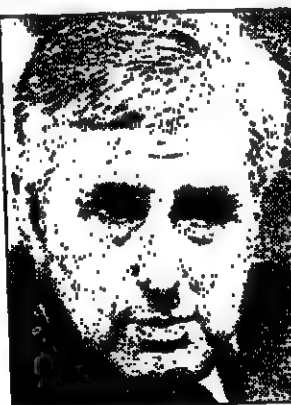
He will point to "misfiring relations" between ministers and industrialists, stemming from a lack of "strategic purpose" in the government's handling of the economy and urge ministers to forge a new understanding with business about their medium-term economic objectives.

On the economy, the CBI gave warning that businesses were still in for some "very tough times" in the year ahead. Doug McWilliams, the CBI's chief economic adviser, said the recovery was "not yet in the bag", and he dismissed the Treasury's production of so-called seasonally-adjusted figures for business confidence based on the CBI's data.

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Mr Hutchison said that if this happened under the Social Action Programme it could have "very serious effects on the ability of European business to compete internationally".

The committee's paper setting out priorities calls for a phased approach to monetary union, and wants the UK to move to the narrow ERM bands as soon as possible.



Banham on the attack

Brent wins waiver agreement

By OUR CITY STAFF

BONDHOLDERS accounting for more than 90 per cent of Brent Walker's convertible bond issue have now agreed to waive their right of legal redress against the company.

The legal waiver had been a key element of the revised agreement eventually thrashed out by bondholders and the company last month. Brent Walker's banks had insisted that more than 90 per cent of bondholders would have to waive their legal claim

before the long-awaited £1.5 billion refinancing of the leisure company could finally go ahead.

Brent Walker has now received letters of agreement from bondholders controlling 90.1 per cent of the issue.

Bankers had argued that a 90 per cent waiver was crucial. Without it, the banks ran the risk that new capital injected into Brent Walker would be immediately paid out to bondholders in legal damages.

Brent Walker had been vulnerable to a legal claim since it admitted that the interim results that preceded the issue of the bonds last December had been "materially overstated".

The bondholders that have not agreed to the legal waiver include Lloyds, which owns under £5 million of bonds, and the holding still held by family trusts set up by George Walker, Brent Walker's ousted chairman.



Stocking up: Archie Norman, the newly appointed chief executive of Asda

City likely to back Asda's rights

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ASDA'S institutional shareholders look likely to support the £357 million rescue rights issue, which closes on Friday, despite earlier indications that it might go the way of Hillsdown Holdings or British Aerospace's cash calls.

Several shareholders said they would take a final view of the issue on Wednesday but, barring a collapse in the market, would take up their rights. Bae saw a 4.9 per cent take up and Hillsdown a 48 per cent take up.

Robin Garrow, Scottish Widows' investment director, said a decision about his company's 4.88 per cent stake in Asda would be made today but that, at current prices, Scottish Widows would take up its rights.

The turning point for Asda appears to be the appointment of Archie Norman, the bright young finance director from Kingfisher, as chief executive. The rights issue at 35p is seen by institutions as on the cheap side with the ordinary shares unchanged at 42p on Friday and the nil paid at 7p.

Three other institutions have stakes in Asda. Schroder Investment Management has 4.91 per cent, Provident Mutual Life Assurance 4.77 per cent and Phillips & Drew 3.11 per cent.

Mr Norman is still negotiating his departure from Kingfisher, but said he hoped a date for his arrival at Asda would be set soon.

Some institutions that are prepared to support Asda are, however, concerned about its long-term future. Food retailing remains intensely competitive and the group has yet to announce a difficult set of interim numbers.

T & C rides out mortgage losses

By PHILIP FANGALOS

TOWN & Country, Britain's fifteenth largest building society, has stressed that there has been no run on funds, and that there is no cause for a run, after talk of a surge in bad debt losses.

There has been speculation that several societies may make losses as a result of higher bad debt provisions, brought about by a surge in arrears and record repossession. However, there is no danger that depositors at Town & Country could lose money, even if the society were to incur a loss.

John Wrigglesworth, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "Bad debts at Town & Country are worse than many other societies, but there is no danger whatsoever to people's savings at Town & Country. There is no reason for people

to withdraw savings; there is no chance of a loss."

He added: "In terms of reserves it is one of the safest among the top 20. Even if it were to make a loss, its capital ratios are much stronger than the average."

Ian Bell, Town & Country's managing director, would not confirm reports that the Building Societies Commission, the industry watchdog, has briefed a team of accountants to investigate the extent of bad debts at the society.

Town & Country stressed that there is "no reason" for any existing, or prospective, investors or borrowers to be concerned about the society's financial stability. "Very firmly, there are no difficulties. Arrears have hit Town & Country in the same way as other building societies."

Yorkshire TV holders urged to reject new licence

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS of Yorkshire Television, burdened with a £37.7 million annual bill for their success in the ITV blind tender, are being urged to reject the new licence by White Rose Television, the runner-up.

White Rose, which passed the Independent Television Commission's quality test but bid just £17.4 million, is wooing Yorkshire shareholders with an offer of free White Rose shares if they reject the Yorkshire licence, in the hope that the ITC will automatically pass the new licence on to White Rose.

But the ITC said White Rose would not necessarily emerge the winner should Yorkshire shareholders vote to reject the licence when they meet on November 20.

The Commission said it could instead choose to re-advertise the licence. This would mean Thames, TVS or any of the other losers in the franchise battle could launch new bids for the Yorkshire region. Yorkshire could itself re-bid lower.

Yorkshire, whose bid has been criticised as too high by City analysts, said it was confident its main shareholders - Pearson and WH Smith - will remain loyal to the company. Both companies, which speak for 40 per cent between them, confirmed they will support the Yorkshire board.

Clive Leach, Yorkshire's managing director, also said he has proxies of support from smaller shareholders, which together with Pearson and WH Smith speak for slightly more than 50 per cent of the company.

The White Rose proposal is tempting for Yorkshire shareholders, who would see much higher profits if linked with the lower bidder.

Richard Hazwell, White Rose's chairman and chief executive, said he had received overwhelming support for his plan from other Yorkshire shareholders, as well as City analysts and brokers. Lord Lewisham, a director of White Rose, urged shareholders to ask their board why it bid so much when Yorkshire has never made a profit of more than £18.4 million.

But Mr Leach insisted Yorkshire will be "profitable from day one".

Patricia Kluge plays the cards

By MATTHEW BOND

COLLECTING soccer cards has been a harmless and enjoyable hobby for generations of schoolboys and, doubtless, a few of their sisters. As one of the few drains on pocket money that is friendly to teeth and which serves as gentle introduction to the economic concept of barter, parents tend to approve of their off-spring's latest enthusiasm.

But the identity of the most recent entrant to the multi-million publishing industry could prompt one or two fathers to return to the hobby, and add momentum to the card craze now sweeping City dealers. For the publisher behind *Shooting Stars*, which hit Britain's newsagents last month, is Patricia Kluge, the glamorous ex-wife of John Kluge, claimed to be America's richest man.

Indeed, Mrs Kluge's colourful past may remind a few fathers of other visits they have made to the newsagent. Mrs Kluge is still perhaps best known as an early sort of sexual agony aunt, whose advice column and memorable picture byline, used to grace one of the



Kluge behind Shooting Stars

magazines normally found well out of reach of the soccer card buyers.

Marrying John Kluge, whose fortune was estimated by *Forbes* magazine at almost \$6 billion, made her a very wealthy woman. Divorcing him, appears to have made Mrs Kluge wealthier. Her settlement was reportedly \$1 billion in cash.

But Mrs Kluge has greater ambitions. From her base in Charlottesville, Vir-

ginia, she has set up her own company, Kluge Investments. Already established as a contract publisher, Kluge Investments has - prompted by her eight-year-old son - now gone into soccer cards, competing with the likes of ProSet of America and Panini, owned by Maxwell Communication Corporation.

Given the size of her annual investment income, Mrs Kluge is clearly a very serious player. Inevitably perhaps, she has been mentioned as a possible buyer of Panini. But her advisers say she is very capable of building *Shooting Stars* into a big business. With the cards now on sale in England, Italy and The Netherlands, they are hoping the venture will gross \$25 million in year one.

Collecting baseball cards has become a cult hobby in America, with enormous prices paid for rare or early cards.

Mrs Kluge believes the same could be happen for soccer cards in Europe. Towards that end a very limited number of *Shooting Stars* cards have been autographed by the picture player. But nostalgic dads are in for a disappointment. No matter how many packs they buy, there are no pictures of Mrs Kluge.

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BTR strategy poses dilemma

Hawker Siddeley faces an uphill struggle when it issues its defence document tomorrow, if it is to escape or at least force BTR to make a big increase in its takeover bid. At 722p, including a 10p dividend, Hawker's shares are effectively trading at only 6p above the BTR bid, though a clear 12p above the cash alternative, and probably at about 17 times prospective earnings. Hawker needs to get its own share price up to widen the gap and to persuade institutional shareholders that the cash alternative is the real bid.

Its strongest suit may be to question BTR's wisdom in making itself even more of a jumbled conglomerate than before. Alan Jackson, BTR's new chief executive, won friends on his arrival by saying that BTR would change its policy of keeping nearly all of the businesses it bought and giving the group three core units with a global dimension. Rockware, his first purchase, underlined this strategy by building up a big packaging business into new geographical areas and improving it by internal transfers of technology.

The Hawker acquisition, in contrast, seems to run entirely counter to this strategy, with little overlap in trading. On a crude measure, the combined group would increase BTR's complexity from 112 businesses on the standard industrial classification to 160, considerably more than its larger rival, Hanson. Mr Jackson has, moreover, forestalled any propaganda battle by insisting that BTR would keep far more of Hawker than his target's own management intends, perhaps as much as 80 per cent.

Conglomeration by acquisition of the kind that built BTR and Hanson has gone dramatically out of fashion in America and, to a lesser extent, in Britain. BTR has survived this trend because it has pursued its policy of consolidating and cutting costs so consistently well. The group is still moving against the trend. Wide-ranging financial conglomerates appear to be a one-generation animal that, once built to a great size, eventually have to be turned into more coherent groups.

Hanson, for instance, has been moving strongly in this direction, becoming a world-scale building materials group with a big interest in tobacco. In America, IIT has concentrated its activities to compete globally in its core businesses. BTR may be the exception that proves the rule but institutions may well press Mr Jackson on his strategy before taking more BTR paper, even if they approve his second bid for Hawker.

Racal doldrums

There is an ominous silence from Sir Gordon Borrie and his colleagues about the Williams bid for Racal Electronics. The £750 million bid is on ice, awaiting clearance or otherwise from the Office of Fair Trading. The go-ahead was expected to be a routine affair since Williams had already pre-notified the OFT that, if needs be, it would sell Racal's Chubb locks and safe businesses to reduce its share of the retail locks market. But now the delay suggests that market share issues are proving more problematic than Williams anticipated.

The standstill has not changed the market's perception that Williams has it all to do. Racal's shares stood stubbornly at 57p last Friday compared with the 49.5p equivalent of the Williams share-exchange terms of three for every 20 Racal units. The price is saying that Williams will raise its offer to win and that the risk of a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is not that great. Those close to Williams are not so sure that a higher offer is inevitable.

Information and disinformation are hard to disentangle in such cases and it would suit Williams to allow the impression that it might walk away. But Williams has already pushed its bid to the point where dilution in earnings is not far away and its two top men, Nigel Rudd and Brian McGowan, do not feel they have a much image to protect. They would rather walk away than overpay.

If the OFT waves the bid through, Racal will produce, it is said, a spectacular pre-tax profits forecast of more than £50 million. If that shifts Racal's shares higher, will Williams throw in the towel? It has put Racal's businesses under the microscope and, apart from data networks, feels it understands exactly how to unlock value through disposals and reorganisation. Risk-averse Racal shareholders might like to sell part of their stake.

Surfeit of stability that signals uncertainty for the economy

The Governor of the Bank of England has spelt out his formula for recovery.

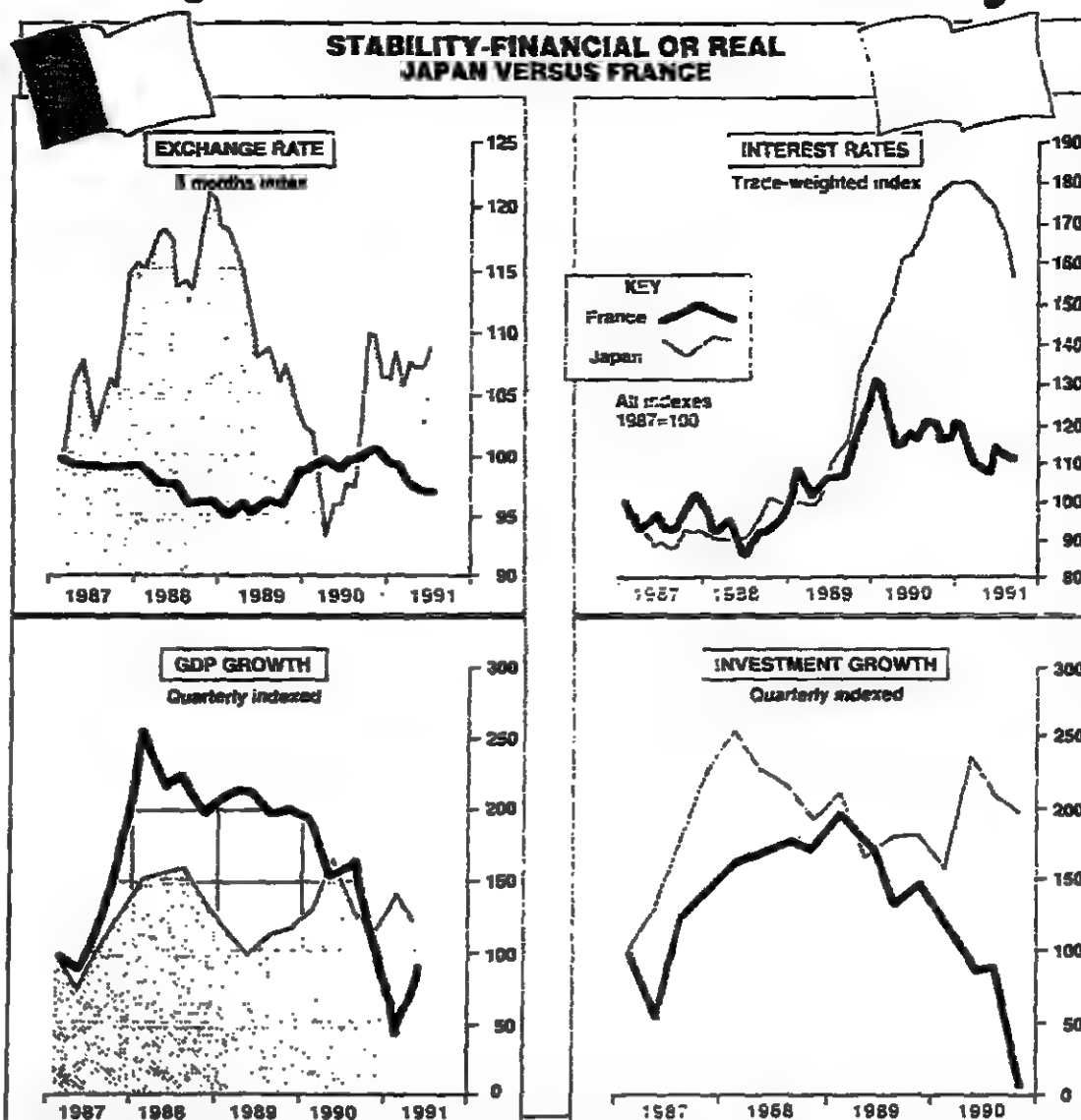
Anatole Kaletsky puts it to the test

What is required to achieve economic growth and prosperity again in Britain? Last Wednesday, the governor of the Bank of England asked this question at the Mansion House banquet. "My answer in a word is stability," he declared and Britain's entire economic establishment nodded its grave assent. But what exactly does stability mean?

Most people would probably say reasonably full employment, steady economic growth and moderate inflation. But the governor disagreed. "Stability of prices and stability of policy" is what he demands and he is supported across the political spectrum. Economic recovery and employment growth are supposed to be indirect consequences of this financial stability, not conscious objectives, as the governor made clear. "Our aim now should be a steady recovery, rather than a rapid expansion which requires correction later on. There has too often been a temptation to manage policy in order to raise output and reduce unemployment in the short run. This discretionary fine-tuning of policy has invariably led to inflation."

The Governor was equally clear on how financial stability was to be achieved — through a "credible medium-term framework" for economic policy, built around targets for money supply, exchange rates, growth rate of money GDP, or some other "nominal" financial indicator. To find these arguments convincing, it is necessary to have a PhD in economics and to be less than 12 years old. The economics degree is needed to appreciate the 50 years of post-Keynesian debate about whether shifts in nominal demand translate into fluctuations in physical output and employment or changes in prices. This issue is to economics what Unified Field Theory is to physics — to hope for the final answer is to aspire to the omniscience of God. Today, however, even professional economists should be able to see their way through this theoretical morass. They can simply think back over the past 12 years of policy making.

Was it not Nigel Lawson, backed intellectually by Sir Terence Burns (now permanent secretary of the Treasury) who introduced the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in 1980? Did they not use monetary targets, money GDP, shadow exchange rates and other nominal frameworks to "stabilise" the economy? Was it not Mr Lawson who said the government's sole economic obligation was to ensure stable prices and that inflation should be "the judge and jury" of his



economic record? After 12 years of economic policy making by Mr Lawson and Sir Terry, the idea of medium-term policy frameworks has been thoroughly tested. The Governor's apparently new philosophical prescriptions for stability are nothing more than a description of the policies pursued through the two deepest recessions and the most unaccountable inflation in post-war history. Why should this philosophy succeed after failing in the past?

Was Mr Lawson insufficiently "committed" to the medium-term approach? Never has there been a chancellor more contemptuous of Keynesian fine-tuning or more sincere in his intellectual commitment to fighting inflation. Did Margaret Thatcher cause the trouble by vetoing ERM membership? Mr Lawson's worst mistakes were made in 1987 and 1988, when the pound was strong and therefore signalling precisely the policy relaxation which caused the subsequent problems. Anyway, Mrs Thatcher, Sir Alan Walters and her other economic advisers were just as passionate in their loathing of inflation and tinkering with the economy as Mr Lawson. If they made mistakes, it was because they believed their nominal frameworks, monetary indicators and "resolute approach" had created insurmountable barriers against inflation and slump.

Yet there is no guarantee that financial stability will lead to stability in output and employment.

Stable financial policies can sometimes destabilise the real economy since sharp changes in interest rates, exchange rates or monetary and fiscal targets may be needed to steer a country out of trouble if it suffers an unexpected jolt. The charts provide an example. Since 1987, France has "enjoyed" stability in interest and exchange rates. But its real economic performance has been dismal, in terms of unemployment and if measured by the variability of investment and real growth. The Japanese experience has been a mirror image. Exchange rates and interest rates have fluctuated widely because they have been used to manage demand; but the instability in financial markets has been matched by remarkably steady growth and investment, plus low unemployment.

This example does not prove that financial instability is actually desirable. Economic fine-tuning, like almost everything else, seems to work much better in Japan than anywhere else. In the past five years, America has experienced both financial and real instability. Whether America has benefited more from its monetary fine-tuning than France has from its financial stability is an open question. Britain's experience with medium-term financial plans, exchange-rate targets, and other "nominal anchors" has undeniably been disastrous.

During the deregulation craze of the early Eighties, economists and

central bankers were virtually unanimous in arguing that variable interest and exchange rates were needed because they could act as "shock absorbers" to cushion fluctuations in real output and employment. This was only partly right. Fluctuating interest and exchange rates created economic problems. But the shock absorbers did work to some extent in stabilising real economic activity and prices. An economy like Britain's, going through deep structural changes, may have needed these shock absorbers more than most.

If politicians now decide to put the shock absorbers totally out of action by trying to "stabilise" interest rates and exchange rates, the real economy will suffer an even bumpier ride. There are no fool-proof formulae allowing prices, employment, growth and financial markets all to be stabilised at the same time. Choices on interest rates, employment levels and inflation have to be kept being made, whether the government claims to abide by a medium-term financial framework, or simply promises to do its best to avoid the ever-present dangers of inflation and recession. The real question is whether policy makers consciously and competently calculate the risks they are taking, like the Japanese and Americans. Or do they simply imagine that they can do no wrong, like the British Treasury in the past 12 years?

Dialling the 010 out of existence

European Community telecommunications ministers talk about some pretty whizzbang stuff, from high definition television to the satellites hovering high over the brave new Europe of 1992. But they also like to come to grips with life's more immediate problems — like 010 dialling, for example.

Today will go down in history as the beginning of the end for our beloved 010 prefix for international telephone calls. For the legal boffins framing the homogenous EC market, the fact that six member states did not put 00 in front of their calls abroad was too much. Another little piece of the British way of life is being quietly hacked away.

"For the millions of people living away from home, using the telephone more and more, this situation is no longer acceptable," rages a Commission press release. "00 stands for everything decent about the new Euro-citizen."

When questioned about the great directive — possibly the clearest thing ever to emerge from the cabinet of Filippo Maria Pandolfi, the communications commissioner — aides are a little circumspect. "Whose idea was it in the first place?" "Oh, er, I think he's left now."

Because of the technical difficulties, we may even be able to hang on to 010 until 1998, so it is just possible our code might outlive our currency. For international telephone buffs they need no repeating, but for the rest of us, here is a nostalgic look at the way we used to dial: In Denmark (really badly out of line), 009; Spain, 07; France, 19; Britain, 010; Ireland, 16; and Holland, 09.

The European parliament has yet to make its final decision on the 00 code, so ministers will not officially be able to draw the curtain on 010 today. British officials could not confirm speculation that John Redwood, under secretary of state for corporate affairs, will be looking for an opt-out clause.

Ministers may also have time to look at another scheme from Signor Pandolfi — a common EC emergency number. He wants 112 to be the standard SOS number for the EC.



Pandolfi poses threat to 999

with our dear old 999 under threat. "Presumably 999 will be phased out one day," confirmed an aide. But he admitted the telecommunications directorate is working night and day on a bold proposal to let 999 exist alongside 112.

TOM WALKER
Brussels

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tunnel party fell flat

SIR Alastair Morton, Euro-tunnel chief executive, harangued of late by the tunnel's contractors, reveals that his job at Eurotunnel has not been solely concerned with placating builders. To mark the tunnel's first "breakthrough", in December last year, he had hoped that Thatcher and Mitterrand would attend a party. A huge marquee was erected alongside the new Folkestone terminal but his key guests were reluctant to attend. "Mitterrand's personal physician made a tour of the tunnel, before advising his patient, and declared it a revolting experience, and then one of Thatcher's aides telephoned to ask if it was humid down there — would it ruin her hair-do," says Morton. He had to make do with the French and British transport ministers, the marquee remained empty and the party fizzled out. "I've still got two presents, one for Thatcher and one for Mitterrand, but we haven't been able to find an occasion when they've both been together to hand them over," Morton laments.



"Property values drop like a stone whenever we discuss council tax"

ful directors, has suddenly changed some of his lifelong habits. He has stopped listening to Verdi in his car on the way to work each morning, and has been blessing out Wagner instead. Giving further credence to idle talk that he perhaps knows something his colleagues do not, a recent passenger in the vehicle was also surprised to find a *Learn to Speak German* cassette in the glove compartment. "It is of no relevance whatsoever," insists Whitaker.

Belfast booking

AFTER more than two years of negotiations, Belfast is finally to get another tourist hotel. It will be announced today that Accor, the French company, will build one of its three star Novotel's at Belfast airport. The 108 bedroomed hotel, expected to cost £5 million, should be operational by April 1993. "We consider it to be a great endorsement of

Northern Ireland as a holiday destination," Hugh O'Neill, chairman of both the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Belfast International Airport and son and heir to Lord Rathcavan, says. "They are the best three star brand, in our opinion," adds O'Neill, aged 52, who has also been a director of Savoy Management, the operational board of The Savoy Hotel, since selling his St. Quentin brasserie and grill in London's Brompton Road to that rather more upmarket hotel group in 1989.

ANZ reshapes

ANZ Merchant Bank, which has pulled out of UK corporate finance and handed back one of its three merchant banking licences to the Bank of England, has now restructured the rest of its business, renaming the operation ANZ International Merchant Bank. As the new name implies, the bank has decided to concentrate on international corporate finance and other international merchant banking activities including debt syndication, Islamic finance, export credits and fund management. With effect from today Mark Coombs, previously head of its emerging markets division, will run this new-style unit and Rollo Prendergast will be its deputy. The refocusing of the business, now said to be ready for expansion, follows an internal strategic study that began almost 18 months ago and is expected to capitalise on a branch network spanning 49 countries.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

On Lloyd's and liability

From Mr P. R. W. Pemberton
Sir, I was always brought up to believe that there is no such thing as something for nothing. The first 25 years of my adult life I adhered to this philosophy whilst watching a number of my friends receive substantial annual cheques from Lloyd's for doing precisely nothing.

Eventually greed got the better of me, and I decided to join the "gravy train". I interviewed five members' agents, and came to the conclusion that their modern business skills probably owed more to their old school tie or regiment, than to the harsh realities of business life. The one thing they all did, with unflinching force, was to remind me that if I joined Lloyd's

everything I owned was at risk. Despite my doubts about their abilities, and the clear statement of my unlimited liability, greed still held the upper hand.

Such was my unhappiness with the way I found matters conducted that I resigned after two years, but not before ensuring that those two years of membership were 1989 and 1990.

I suspect that all other members of Lloyd's, if they are honest, joined with the same motive and I find it sad that they should now be complaining so loudly. Yours faithfully, P. R. W. PEMBERTON, River Farm, Latham Road, Cambridge.

Time warp

From Mr P. P. Tompsett
Sir, I have been struck by the photographs of senior managers and chief executives which adorn the business pages. In almost every case I see gentlemen of mature, if not advanced years, in the driving seat of major organisations.

However, as a 51 year old manager with considerable experience I am finding my age a barrier to securing a job since redundancy six months ago. If the corporations which adopt this policy applied it internally we could expect to see an exodus of middle to top management forming a line behind me in the dole queue.

Either there is corporate life after 45, or the country is being run by senile, burnt-out incompetents. Yours faithfully, PETER TOMPSETT, Westwood, Vicarage Lane, Garsfield, Nr Wrexham, Chwyd.

Solution for Lilley

From Mr W. G. Horn
Sir, Irrespective of what the score might be in the dispute between Mr Lilley and the EC, I would like to suggest an easy solution to the conflict which would additionally have other beneficial consequences. There should be legislation to the effect that any takeover offer for cash must include as an alternative an offer in the form of shares in the predator company.

Such legislation would have had a profound effect on past takeover events. It would not have been detrimental to the institutions and it would have represented a welcome alternative to thousands of small shareholders who might have been loyal to the predator's victim for many years.

Yours faithfully, W. G. HORN, Horn-Hammonson Ltd, "De Berkenhof", Gorselands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks.

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

New line in profits at Sainsbury

BRITAIN'S largest food retailer, J Sainsbury, which is chaired by Lord Sainsbury, will buck the recent depressed stream of corporate results when, on Wednesday, it unveils a relatively healthy rise in first-half profits. The group's anticipated performance is viewed as reasonable, given the current trading environment.

Sainsbury is expected to report pre-tax profits of £323 million (£273.4 million) for the half year, excluding property, according to David Shriver, an analyst at County NatWest WoodMac. Market forecasts range from £323 million to £326.5 million. Turnover is expected to grow 12 per cent to about £4.8 billion.

Mr Shriver believes that earnings per share will rise to 13.7p (11.6p) and an interim dividend of 2.5p (2.1p) is predicted. The company will also see some benefits from its recent £489 million rights issue, with the proceeds leading to a small decline in the interest charge and feeding through to the bottom line.

TODAY

Interim: CSR, Europe Energy Group, Globe Petroleum, Renold, Wood (SW) Group.
Finals: Rand Mines, VTR.
Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions (September); UK official reserves (October).

TOMORROW

TIP Europe, the trailer rentals and leasing group, which is chaired by Jim Davis, will suffer a hefty decline in its full-year profits. This will reflect the depressed demand in the United Kingdom, although the company should see a reasonable performance on the Continent.

The company, which has about one-fifth of the European trailer rentals market



Food for thought: Lord Sainsbury should announce a bigger dividend as well as higher interim profits

and is number two behind Tiphook, is expected to report a 48 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £8 million (£15.5 million), according to Mark McVicar at County NatWest. A decline in earnings per share to 7.5p (14.8p) is predicted as a cut in the dividend to 2.5p (5.3p).

The group may be over the worst, but the main question in the City is whether any uplift can be sustained. There is the possibility of some kind of debt restructuring, or an issue of equity, to fund growth as TIP's gearing is estimated at between 350 and 400 per cent.

Interim: Aikman Hume International, German Investment Trust, German Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Mid Southern Water, Powerscreen International, Ulster

Television: Finals: Bridport-Gundry, Tiger Cats, TIP Europe.
Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (October - first estimate).

WEDNESDAY

Ian Berry, an analyst at Greig Middleton, expects the Bleasheim Group, an international organiser of exhibitions, to buck the recession and unveil final pre-tax profits rising to about £26.5 million, against £21.3 million last time. Market forecasts range from £26 million to £27 million.

J Bibby & Sons, the industrial and agricultural group, which is 86 per cent owned by Barlow Rand of South Africa, is likely to announce final pre-tax profits of about £35 million (£33.5 million).

Interim: Ocean Wilsons (Holdings), Sainsbury (J).
Finals: Belsay, Bibby (J) & Sons, Blenheim Group.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (August); advance energy statistics (September); details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

THURSDAY

British Petroleum, which is headed by Robert Horton, is expected to report a drop in its third-quarter net income to £267 million on an historic cost basis, against £822 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £200 million to £300 million.

However, Phillips & Drew says the picture is distorted by a £730 million stock gain in

the third quarter of last year. Third-quarter net income on a replacement cost basis - where the stock effects are stripped out - is estimated at £215 million, compared with £103 million previously.

Paul Smiddy, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson, expects William Law, the Scottish supermarket group, to show final pre-tax profits of about £24 million (£21.3 million) on modest sales growth and constrained operating margins.

Market forecasts range from £23.5 million to £25.5 million. Earnings per share, restricted by the rights issue, are likely to edge up to 27.6p (27.2p) with an improved dividend of 8.5p (7.75p). The market will be looking for statements on current trading.

Interim: Anglo American Coal, Appleby Westwood Group, BMSS, British Petroleum (third quarter), Burtonwood Brewery, East Daggel-Koninck Mines, First Island Investment Company, Jersey Phoenix Trust, Precious Metals Trust, Ranger Oil (third quarter), St James's Place Capital, Sims Food Group, Westbury, Whitbread Investment Company.
Finals: Fanner, Low (WMA) & Company.
Economic statistics: New earnings survey 1991, Part D: Results for particular occupations.

FRIDAY

Julian Lakin, an analyst at Smith New Court, expects Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer products group whose brands include Persil, Flora and Bird's Eye, to report third-quarter pre-tax profits ahead by 3 per cent to £510 million (£496 million). This is at the lower end of market expectations, which range from £510 million to £530 million.

Earnings per share are expected to rise by 9 per cent to 17p and a 3 per cent increase in the interim dividend, to 5p, is predicted.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects National Home Loans Holdings, the troubled mortgage lender, to suffer a final pre-tax loss of about £27 million, against a profit of £30.2 million last time, reflecting the rising tide of arrears in the personal sector.

Phillips anticipates second-half provisions of £64 million, against £16 million in the first half, pushing the group into significant losses. Market forecasts range from losses of between £5 million and £60 million. No final dividend is likely.

Interim: Futura Holdings, Oxford Instruments Group, Unilever (third quarter).
Finals: Manganese Bronze Holdings, National Home Loans Holdings.

PHILIP PANGALOS

Generators face threat of break-up

NATIONAL Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators, face the threat of being dismantled into a handful of smaller companies if apparent abuses of their duopoly in running the spot market in electricity, or pool, continue.

The two, and other interested parties in the power industry, must, by today, submit their comments on an enquiry into the movement in pool prices, which ultimately governs the price consumers pay for electricity. The enquiry is being carried out by the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), the industry watchdog. The ultimate sanction held over the generators by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, is a reference to the monopolies commission, which could then call for the industry's break-up.

Ofreg is believed to have found anomalies in the workings of the system this summer and autumn that have led to abrupt and unexplained rises in the pool price of electricity.

These rises, and complaints from electricity users that the price of power had not fallen as expected over the summer months, prompted a letter from Ofreg to the industry giving a warning of the options available to it. These include contractual or other arrangements to cap the generators' bids for critical stations and the forced sale of stations.

When faced with suggestions that the pool was being manipulated, National Power, the larger of the two, has insisted it is not guilty and is

putting its bids into the system in the normal way. PowerGen has refused to comment on the allegations.

Professor Littlechild will shortly strengthen his hold on the industry when he becomes effective court of appeal in disputes relating to the pool. That power will be transferred from the energy secretary as envisaged when the industry was privatised.

The pool pricing system, the first of its kind, is complex, operating effectively as a spot



Littlechild: stronger hold

market where generators bid in the price at which they will supply from various plants around the country for given periods. The National Grid, owner of the transmission system, then sets a schedule by which the various plants come on stream throughout the day, taking the cheapest sources of power available at any time.

The most expensive plant has sometimes to be made available to be switched on to deal with expected peaks of demand. It is here that apparent anomalies have been thrown up.

On one occasion, the National Grid identified a potential shortage of capacity and expensive plant had to be programmed for use. The pool price of electricity shot to a new peak of £160 per megawatt-hour, but in the event demand failed to reach the expected peak and the extra plant was not needed. The generators were, therefore, producing power at an average cost of far less than had been expected, although it is doubtful if they benefited financially from this because of the nature of their contracts with the 12 electricity distributors in England and Wales.

On another occasion, a generator was paid to keep expensive plant available, but when it came to call on it, the plant was closed for maintenance. The report into the incident put this down to an oversight.

Ofreg is mainly concerned about the possibility of "gaming" declarations of availability, where one generator falsely forecasts a low availability of plant and the system looks to be heading for a shortfall. This pushes up payments to the generators for keeping other plant available. Although not contrary to the regulations governing the pool, this conflicts with the stated intention of privatisation, the development of a competitive market.

Professor Littlechild is, therefore, making it clear that he has options available to bring the industry into line.

Announcement

David Manning has been appointed a Partner with the firm with general practice responsibilities including the taxation affairs of Lloyd's Names. He was previously a Partner with Nicholas Ames & Co.

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City finds bright Prospect in the engineering sector

PROSPECT Industries, the engineering holding company, will today announce the completion of a £500,000 contract awarded by Scottish Power for the overhaul of the main boiler at Longannet, Fife.

This announcement will come just two weeks after the completion of a £4 million contract for the installation of a mechanical and electrical plant that forms part of a new combined cycle plant for power generation at Rosscote, Cumbria, the first of its kind to be built for the private sector in Britain.

The work in both cases was undertaken by Dunn International, which was bought by Prospect last May for £14.2 million and helps to explain the City's growing confidence in the company. Prospect's shares have climbed from 94p to 164p since the acquisition but County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, has still put the stock on its buy list, while Panmure Gordon, the house broker, is increasingly bullish.

County has forecast pre-tax profits of £3.2 million for the



Wilbraham: Dunn boost

year to the end of last September and earnings per share of 2.31p. That leaves the company on a prospective p/e of 7, below average for the sector.

Prospect has not reported financial results since the acquisition of Dunn, which dramatically transformed it. The company was formed in 1989 to acquire three small businesses from Tace and, in 1989-90, profits were just £480,000.

Prospect now boasts a market capitalisation of almost

£23 million. Pro forma gearing of 200 per cent at the time of the Dunn acquisition was likely to have been eliminated by the year end, although £3 million in deferred considerations for other acquisitions is still owed.

Panmure expects the company to double the dividend to 0.4p for 1990-91 and double it again in the current year, when pre-tax profits of £4.2 million are expected. Philip Wilbraham, the chairman and chief executive, has experience in engineering and shipping. He also heads Vista Securities, an investment and management company and holds an interest in Northumbrian Fine Foods, where he is non-executive director.

Mr Wilbraham and his family hold 20.7 per cent of Prospect's shares. The company has developed a broad institutional shareholder base, with Schroders speaking for 15 per cent. TSB and Gartmore also have interests and the market in the shares has proved lively since the Dunn purchase.

MARTIN BARROW

BT

Half Year Results

Results for second quarter and half year to 30 September, 1991

	Second quarter 2 months ended 30 September (unaudited)		Cumulative 6 months ended 30 September (unaudited)	
	1991 £m	1990 £m	1991 £m	1990 £m
Turnover	3,290	3,267	6,632	6,475
Operating profit	860	888	1,780	1,752
Profit before taxation	785	791	1,610	1,532
Taxation	255	257	523	498
Minority interests	9	4	15	10
Profit attributable to shareholders	521	530	1,072	1,024
Interim dividend			351	323
Earnings per share	8.5p	8.6p	17.4p	16.8p
Interim dividend per share (net)			5.7p	5.25p

The interim dividend will be paid on 20 February 1992, to shareholders on the BT register on 31 January 1992.

"Turnover of our products and services in the second quarter grew by less than 1 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. However, continued firm cost control has helped us achieve earnings per share growth of 3.9 per cent in the first half year."

The Board is committed to continuous improvements in productivity and quality. Competitive and regulatory pressures have increased and the economic environment in the UK remains subdued. These factors, including the tighter price restraint at RPI minus 6.25, will depress near-term prospects in the absence of any significant growth in turnover.

Notwithstanding the current environment, our cash flows have remained strong, our gearing has improved and we have therefore felt able to increase the interim dividend to 5.7 pence per share."

Iain Vallance
Chairman

If you have any queries as a shareholder please call 0345 010505. For daily recorded information on the BT share price please call 0345 010707. You may telephone these numbers from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call.

British Telecommunications plc, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ.

Cracks in ERM commitment

THE autumn statement will be scrutinised for evidence that the public sector borrowing requirement is overshooting government targets. By convention, the government will only publish an updated estimate for the PSBR in 1991-2, on the monthly figures published this year, the government's new estimate seems unlikely to be more than £1 billion-£2 billion in excess of the Budget target of £8 billion.

However, it is worth remembering that even an unchanged target would represent an underlying deterioration in the public finances since privatisation proceeds seem likely to overshoot published estimates by about £1.5 billion this year.

The government will not publish PSBR targets for 1992-3 and beyond, but projections for public spending. An increase in next year's planning total seems inevitable but with inflation lower than forecast and privatisation proceeds again boosted by the sale of British Telecom, the increase in next year's planning total may be held to £2 billion-£3 billion - rather less than expected. Even so, on our projections for government revenues, this would still imply a PSBR next year of £18 billion against the Budget deficit forecast of £12 billion.

These PSBR numbers imply

a big increase in the supply of gilts to about £22 billion-£23 billion in 1992-3 from £13 billion-£14 billion this year and £5.3 billion in 1990-1. However, it is not clear that this should be of great concern to the gilt market.

With Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism, the influence of these purely domestic fundamentals on long-term interest rates is much diminished. This is because, with exchange rate risk substantially cut, the level of

between gilt and other European bond yields will depend on the perceived strength of the (present and future) government's commitment to the existing exchange rate parities against ERM members. If the market believed sterling would be fixed irrevocably against the mark, arbitrage would ensure the bond yield differential between the two markets would fall rapidly towards zero.

Britain's involvement in the ERM falls short of this. Sterling can fluctuate by up to 6

'By not signing the declaration of intent on monetary union, the government is reserving its right to devalue sterling'

nominal gilt yields in Britain will tend to converge on the ERM average rather than being buffeted by domestic economic fundamentals.

Only if domestic economic policies and performance threaten to undermine Britain's position within the ERM will gilt yields be hit. The effects of a greater supply of gilts will tend to dissipate throughout Europe rather than be felt only in Britain. Any increase in gilt yields is, therefore, likely to be very small unless it is perceived to increase the risk of currency weakness - as seems unlikely in this case.

Ultimately, the spread be-

per cent either side of DM2.95. Furthermore, the government has given no firm undertaking that the existing central parities will be maintained indefinitely. Indeed, by refusing to sign the declaration of intent on monetary union, the government is effectively reserving its right to devalue sterling at some date. Without this commitment, confidence in the government's ability to hold sterling stable will need to be earned, essentially by demonstrating that inflation can be kept under control at European levels so that devaluation is never needed.

During the next six months

or so, the strength of this commitment may be questioned by the possibility of a change of government. While the shadow chancellor has made clear his commitment to the existing exchange rate parities, the gilt market may remain sceptical. It is hard to believe that the initial reaction to a Labour victory will be anything but adverse, since many public commentators still appear to be living in the Seventies.

Nervousness about the political situation during the next few months may thus temporarily reverse the convergence that is otherwise likely between British and German yields. This is likely to represent something of a buying opportunity, especially if the Conservatives win. If Labour wins, much wider spreads would also seem to represent a buying opportunity, assuming that Labour's room for manoeuvre on domestic monetary policy is significantly restricted by ERM membership.

In fact, the most negative outcome for the British market would probably be a hung parliament, which might allow a period of force short-term palliatives to take precedence over medium-term economic management.

DAVID WALTON
Goldman Sachs International

EC focuses on high definition television

From Tom Walker in Brussels

TRADE and telecommunications ministers from the European Community will today try to plan the development of high definition television (HDTV) in the Community.

The commission's directive on satellite broadcasting runs out at the end of the year, and unless a new framework is put in its place both the television makers and broadcasters will have little to aim for.

The basic message of HDTV for the EC is clear: missing out on the revolution could irreparably damage the already struggling consumer electronics sector.

A report from the Economist Intelligence Unit estimates HDTV will account for a third of the sector's output by the late Nineties and have global sales of \$100 billion a year by 2000.

Filippo Maria Pandolfi, the commissioner responsible, has championed a technology invented by Thomson of France and Philips of The Netherlands called MAC. His original plan was to make it compulsory for all customers for large televisions after 1994 to buy sets fitted with MAC decoders; parallel to this, satellite broadcasters would be obliged to "simulcast" all their programmes in MAC.

Broadcasters, however, balked at the plan and a compromise now being put forward by the Dutch would probably involve no more

than a vague commitment for all new satellite services after 1994 to be broadcast in a form of MAC called D2MAC. The broadcasters are being offered 1 billion euros (£704 million) to help them do this. Signor Pandolfi wants a "memorandum of understanding" between all sides of the television industry to help the agreement stick.

The problem with HDTV is that it involves a total re-equipping of the television industry. Coopers & Lybrand has estimated the cost of this to the European taxpayer could be as much as 21 billion euros over the next ten years.

Signor Pandolfi is still quietly confident that a coherent HDTV strategy can be in place by the end of the year. "My ambition is to transform one of the major difficulties of my career into a major opportunity for Europe," he said.

At today's meeting the Dutch and French governments will push for a commitment to HDTV and the MAC technology. The Dutch presidency is also thought to have persuaded Germany to back Signor Pandolfi, but John Redwood, the under secretary of state for corporate affairs, will advise caution.

The government has always argued that the transition to HDTV should be market led and not foisted on the consumer by the commission.

Bearing gifts to the City

By Gillian Bowditch

EIGHT of the West End's leading retailers are setting up shop in the Broadgate development this week in an effort to bring Christmas to the City of London.

Liberty, Hamleys, Burberys, Janet Reger, American Retro, Culpeper, Chinacraft and The Scotch House will be selling a selection of gifts at the Broadgate Christmas Emporium, close to Liverpool Street Station.

The Christmas Emporium will be in the Rotunda, under the ice rink in the Arena. It is the first time the Broadgate development, owned by Rosehaugh Stanhope, the property group, has invited retailers to set up shop in the space, which is normally used for exhibitions.

Pru Redfern, deputy managing director of Broadgate Estates, said: "The idea came about from our 12 days of Christmas festival. We decided to use the exhibition space to promote our retail element and show the retailers that City workers want to shop in the City."

Posters and leaflets in the area are aimed at luring the 3,500 commuters who use Liverpool Street station every day. The Emporium will be open five days a week from today until Christmas Eve.



Bringing Christmas closer: retailer Janet Reger

Spending on training weathers downturn

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY spending on training is holding up in the recession, though managers are doubtful about the impact of some of the government's training initiatives.

A survey by the employer-union Industrial Society finds that unlike the recession of the early Eighties, most companies in the present downturn have maintained their training expenditure, and many have increased it.

The survey of 351 companies and other organisations finds that 46 per cent have spent more on training in the first six months of this year than the same period in 1990, while 23 per cent have spent less and 31 per cent the same. Forty-nine per cent expect to spend the same during the next six months, with 38 per cent forecasting an increase.

However, the survey also found that company managers were unable to keep up with developments because of the high number of new training initiatives. The government's Investors in People scheme, for instance, was unknown by 65 per cent of organisations.

Investors aim to oust directors at Richmond Oil

By Martin Barrow

A REVOLT by shareholders is brewing at Richmond Oil & Gas, the American oil and gas producer listed in London. A number of investors want to remove David Wilkinson and Mike Hogue, the joint managing directors.

Their departure would give Robert Fox, who was appointed non-executive chairman at the instigation of County NatWest last year, a chance to form a new board to restructure Richmond Oil.

Institutional investors unhappy about Richmond's recent performance boycotted last month's annual meeting.

Mr Wilkinson was expected to resign after the meeting when Mr Fox told shareholders that he was disappointed by Richmond's performance. Shareholders appeared particularly concerned by annual administration expenses of £3.5 million, compared with oil and gas revenue of £4.8 million.

Richmond lost £795,000 before tax in the year to end March, after provisions of £655,000, compared with



Wilkinson: challenge

losses of £142,000 previously. A £31 million rights issue a year ago ran into difficulties after some places withdrew their interest, leaving County NatWest, joint underwriter, with 7.2 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Despite the cash call, Richmond was forced to sell its coalbed methane interests in the San Juan basin in New Mexico and Colorado to avert severe liquidity problems. The company's shares now trade at 19p, compared with the rights issue price of 125p.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Tide turns to Euromarkets

FOR the past 20 years, corporate treasurers who borrowed long-term money at about 10 per cent were believed to have won a good deal. Continuing inflationary pressures and the inherent instability of the pound have tended to work together to produce persistent double-figure interest rates.

It is a measure, therefore, of how times have changed that, with gilt yields and spreads at highly attractive levels, so few companies still seem prepared to take the plunge in the sterling bond markets. Admittedly, last week saw issues from Guinness and Thames Water, both with long-term funding needs, which were able to issue at or near 10.5 per cent. But in general, the fixed rate funding opportunity created by sterling's joining the ERM has not been widely exploited.

There are several reasons for this. First, with inflation below 5 per cent, companies can justifiably argue that real sterling interest rates remain high. Second, the hard-pressed British corporate sector is still more concerned about moving debt off its balance sheet than raising new capital for expansion. Third, company boards seem reluctant to commit themselves to 10 per cent borrowing rates when there is so much talk about monetary convergence in the air.

Despite the yield gap between German and British interest rates being at a record low of 150 basis points, corporate treasurers are finding it difficult to argue the case for bond issues when further falls in interest rates are expected, or at least hoped for. As one sterling market commentator

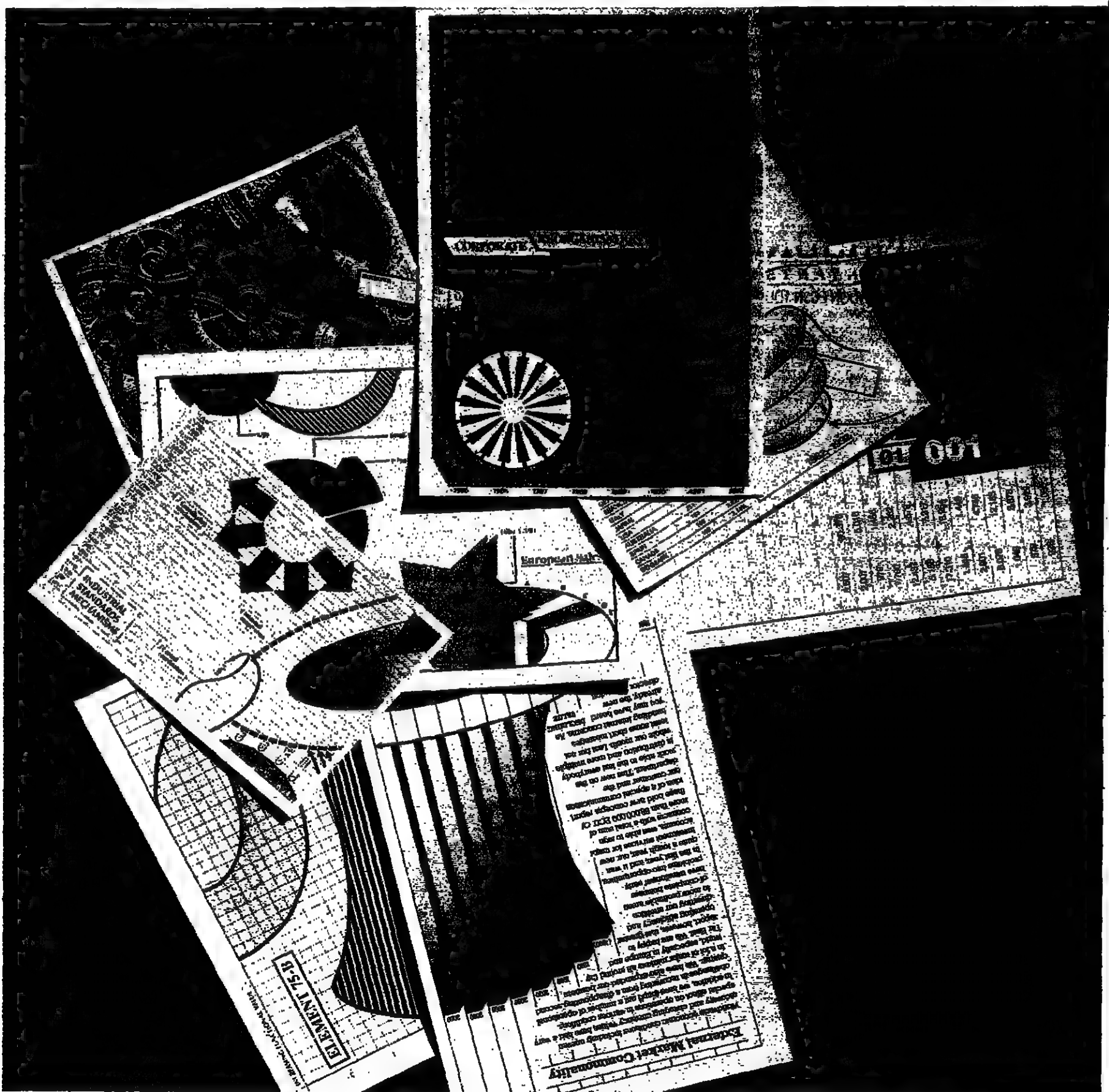
said: "Corporate treasurers are always hoping for better days. Now they have an excuse - the prospect of 6 per cent yields in a few years."

However, another crucial factor, as yet not fully taken into account by markets, lies in wait beyond Christmas. As the election approaches, expectations of the direction of gilt yields must surely change if Labour remains ahead in the polls. Few companies seem prepared to issue as a political hedge against rising rates after a Labour victory. If Conservative election prospects continue to look unpromising into the new year, the markets will begin to test treasurers' nerves by pushing out spreads from their present historically tight levels. A sudden slew of issues may follow, closing the funding window of opportunity that has existed since the summer.

But despite corporate treasurers' reluctance to dip their toes in the Euromarkets, the sterling Eurobond markets continue their impressive growth. Latest data show issuance of £7.3 billion in the first nine months of 1991, more than in any previous year and well ahead of 1990's £5 billion total. In fact, the growth of the market in the Eighties means the volume of Eurosterling redemptions will begin to rival those of gilts from next year. Issuers will soon have to monitor the pattern of forthcoming redemptions in both markets to most effectively tap into investors' demands for paper and thus achieve the most favourable rates. No one said mastering the international capital markets was going to be easy.

JONATHAN PRYNN

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You were happy to spend a fortune advertising on TV.

Then you had to go and read this.

NO-ONE can deny that television advertising is expensive. The reason advertisers are willing to pay up is because they've been told time and time again - and have had no reason to doubt - that television is a good investment.

Given the huge audiences and the 'intrusive' nature of the medium, for those who can afford it there is no real alternative.

We may think of this as the accepted wisdom. In fact it's the accepted folly.

The figures that make the case for television advertising are based on a method of research which records the times at which viewers turn their sets on, change channels and switch off.

There is also a 'people meter' that records who is in the room, provided they remember to press the button.

This method asks us to make a rather important assumption.

That when people are in a room with the TV set switched-on, they are actually watching.

Everyday experience, common sense and a little elementary sleuthing will show us that this assumption can't be entirely accurate.

Just how wildly inaccurate has recently been demonstrated by research psychologist Dr. Peter Collett, who used the unassailable method of videoing people watching commercials by hiding a camera in their TV sets.

His findings make uncomfortable reading for

anyone who spends large sums on television advertising. Let's assume that you 'invest' £10 million. Dr. Collett saw (literally) that 20% of commercials played to empty rooms. Bang goes £2 million.

The videotapes also revealed that advertising breaks were the cue for people to escape the commercials.

Some people left the room. Others used their remote-control 'zappers' to sample the action on other channels.

As a result, another 10% of commercials (and £1 million of your budget) were lost.

Only 70% of commercials had any audience at all. But the tapes show people talking, reading, sleeping. Some, who evidently forgot they were being filmed, even got down to some serious canoodling.

Half the time, no-one was actually watching the TV set.

In effect, only one third of all commercials had the viewers' attention. £7 million of your £10 million was totally wasted.

Whichever way you look at it, television advertising is less than half as effective as you thought it was. Or more than twice as expensive.

In publishing this newspaper advertisement, we do not wish to imply that your television

advertising budget is wasted. Just two thirds of it.

Of course we're not suggesting that you stop using television, only that you stop to think about what

other, powerful options are available. Newspapers, for example.

You cannot read a newspaper whilst behaving as if it isn't there.

If you put down your newspaper to make a cup of tea, the ads will still be

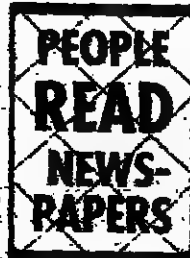
there when you come back. (It is probably impossible to canoodle while reading a newspaper, but if Dr. Collett's research teaches us anything, it is not to be dogmatic.)

Some of the most famous campaigns in advertising history have been conducted in newspapers. We've already featured several of them on these pages. This advertisement contains two more examples.

Newspaper advertisements can be intrusive, powerful and compelling.

You've spent three minutes on this ad already and read every word so far. How much would it cost you to hold someone's attention on TV for three minutes? (Don't forget that TV is more than twice as expensive as you thought it was.)

If you'd like more information, please telephone 071-433 1500.



Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight daily price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

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2	Wear	Industrial	112.10	178	178	178	178
3	Wimpey G	Building/Const	112.00	178	178	178	178
4	Bruton	Property	111.90	178	178	178	178
5	Logica	Computer	111.80	178	178	178	178
6	Spandor	Industrial	111.70	178	178	178	178
7	Prudential	Insurance	111.60	178	178	178	178
8	Vaux Group	Automotive	111.50	178	178	178	178
9	Tesco	Retail	111.40	178	178	178	178
10	Wm Morris	Retail	111.30	178	178	178	178
11	Wm Morris	Retail	111.20	178	178	178	178
12	Wm Morris	Retail	111.10	178	178	178	178
13	Wm Morris	Retail	111.00	178	178	178	178
14	Wm Morris	Retail	110.90	178	178	178	178
15	Wm Morris	Retail	110.80	178	178	178	178
16	Wm Morris	Retail	110.70	178	178	178	178
17	Wm Morris	Retail	110.60	178	178	178	178
18	Wm Morris	Retail	110.50	178	178	178	178
19	Wm Morris	Retail	110.40	178	178	178	178
20	Wm Morris	Retail	110.30	178	178	178	178
21	Wm Morris	Retail	110.20	178	178	178	178
22	Wm Morris	Retail	110.10	178	178	178	178
23	Wm Morris	Retail	110.00	178	178	178	178
24	Wm Morris	Retail	109.90	178	178	178	178
25	Wm Morris	Retail	109.80	178	178	178	178
26	Wm Morris	Retail	109.70	178	178	178	178
27	Wm Morris	Retail	109.60	178	178	178	178
28	Wm Morris	Retail	109.50	178	178	178	178
29	Wm Morris	Retail	109.40	178	178	178	178
30	Wm Morris	Retail	109.30	178	178	178	178
31	Wm Morris	Retail	109.20	178	178	178	178
32	Wm Morris	Retail	109.10	178	178	178	178
33	Wm Morris	Retail	109.00	178	178	178	178
34	Wm Morris	Retail	108.90	178	178	178	178
35	Wm Morris	Retail	108.80	178	178	178	178
36	Wm Morris	Retail	108.70	178	178	178	178
37	Wm Morris	Retail	108.60	178	178	178	178
38	Wm Morris	Retail	108.50	178	178	178	178
39	Wm Morris	Retail	108.40	178	178	178	178
40	Wm Morris	Retail	108.30	178	178	178	178
41	Wm Morris	Retail	108.20	178	178	178	178
42	Wm Morris	Retail	108.10	178	178	178	178
43	Wm Morris	Retail	108.00	178	178	178	178
44	Wm Morris	Retail	107.90	178	178	178	178
45	Wm Morris	Retail	107.80	178	178	178	178
46	Wm Morris	Retail	107.70	178	178	178	178
47	Wm Morris	Retail	107.60	178	178	178	178
48	Wm Morris	Retail	107.50	178	178	178	178
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97	Wm Morris	Retail	102.60	178	178	178	178
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99	Wm Morris	Retail	102.40	178	178	178	178
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Company	Price	Wtd	Net	Ytd	P/E
112.20	178	178	178	178	178
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112.00	178	178	178	178	178
111.90	178	178	178	178	178
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Will computer makers end the cold war?

Freezing out rivals by making computers that do not work with each other may have had its day, Matthew May writes

Mention the term open systems to almost any company in the computer industry at the moment and manufacturers will fall over themselves to tell you how "open" their products are. Ask the information technology manager of any company using different makes of computers, and you are likely to get a wry smile from somebody still having to live with the headaches caused by incompatible makes and sizes of computers, and software that is unique to each machine.

The problem has existed for many years, but so too has the potential solution: the adoption of standards by manufacturers and software developers to ensure that equipment and software is compatible.

Only in the field of personal computers (PCs) is there anything approaching an industry-wide standard, where most suppliers followed the lead of IBM and designed their PCs to be compatible. Customers may want open systems in the rest of the industry but the vast majority of the world's business computing is still being done on proprietary systems.

Vince Hoban, the product strategy manager for Software AG, says: "An open-systems vendor in effect says to a company: 'You do not have to buy all your computers from us' - almost a blasphemy for companies accustomed to locking in their big accounts with proprietary offerings."

For customers, open systems promise lower prices, allowing them to buy from the cheapest supplier as well as to make savings by not having to train people in the use of a variety of incompatible systems.

In the long term, the systems also provide "future proofing": the ability to expand computer systems to cope with the changing demands of a business rather than having to scrap old equipment and start again from scratch.

Lars Lauritzen, the marketing director of Dolphin Server Technology, says that each investment made in proprietary equipment



High-tech world: open systems would benefit British industry from car makers to small businesses

today means too much money paid, and narrower options for the next development step. "In short," he adds, "it is throwing good money after bad. For computer vendors, open systems just bring down profit margins."

Installing open systems, however, can be far from simple. Those manufacturers that have large numbers of customers committed to their particular brand argue that the systems are technically horrendous to design and are inefficient.

One of the main planks of open systems is a portable operating system known as Unix, which, once installed, should allow any

software to run on any computer, regardless of make. Unix, however, comes in many different and often incompatible versions. This confusion has meant that some customers are still wary of moving into open systems.

Geof Uwain, the chairman of Hoskyns, the biggest computer services company in Britain, says: "Even some blue-chip companies are still not interested in open systems largely because of the huge investment they have made in existing hardware - usually IBM. Information technology directors are being brain-

'Information technology directors are being brainwashed by suppliers with a babble of noise'



Geoff Uwain, of Hoskyns

IBM created a whole new industry when it introduced a standard personal computer, reports David Guest

The computer industry has already thrown up one universally recognised form of open system - the standard personal computer built in the style of the IBM Personal Computer. First sold in Britain in 1983, the IBM PC was so successful that a whole industry grew up around it, a host of companies manufacturing IBM clones and selling them more cheaply.

The price of an IBM PC AT when it was introduced was £3,600; a similar system today can be bought for £750. Other equipment, including printers, monitors and modems, can be found at similarly low prices. Program prices have fallen, too.

As well as the advantages of an open system, another reason for the fall in prices has been that the equipment has in all cases been superseded by more modern, more advanced and, paradoxically, more expensive items. Computer suppliers maintain profit levels by regularly introducing costly new equipment, offering more power and speed, extra features, and better value, perhaps - so keeping the purchase price of a system relatively high.

Customers might realise savings by ignoring manufacturers' blandishments and keeping faith with the older equipment, now dropping steadily in price to bargain-basement level, but if they do, they risk being left behind by new developments.

Older systems may not be good enough for the most recent programs and may be unsuitable for certain tasks. The progressive improvements of personal computer systems has elements of both promise and threat.

A further way in which personal computer suppliers keep prices up is to offer added value. This means that if the price of a basic system is the only distinguishing feature among the products of competing suppliers, one company may differentiate itself by offering little extras in service and goods.

Eventually, if enough suppliers adopt this method, those who continue to sell basic systems at the



Small wonders: workers at a Japanese portable computer plant

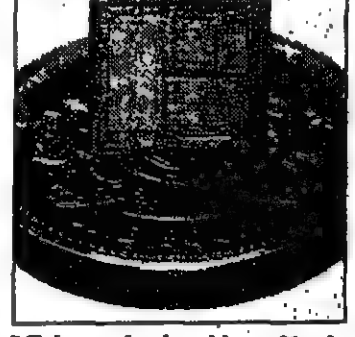
lowest prices begin to look vaguely suspicious by comparison.

Another selling tactic concerns the open systems themselves. One strong argument against proprietary systems was always that computer suppliers could enforce loyalty among their customers because the cost of shopping elsewhere, once investment in one type of system had been made, would have been prohibitive. With open systems, this worry no longer applies.

However, proprietary systems are reappearing in disguise in the PC industry, where one generation of computer succeeds another with

great rapidity. Growing numbers of PC makers are offering computers that can be upgraded, so that when new technology becomes available, the old system can be adapted to accommodate it, instead of being thrown out, passed down the line or sold on the second-hand market.

This obviously beneficial feature means that though PC users will tend to stay with the supplier of the original system, they may be forced to do so by the design of that system, and so become reliant on the supplier keeping pace with technology while being unable to take advantage of cheaper systems.

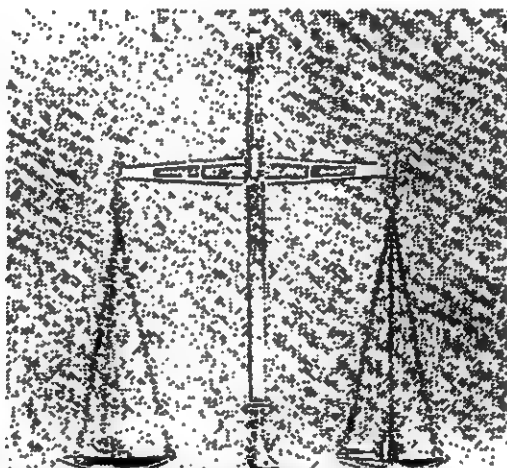


Mini marvel: microchip on £1 coin

'The progressive improvements of personal computer systems has elements of both promise and threat'

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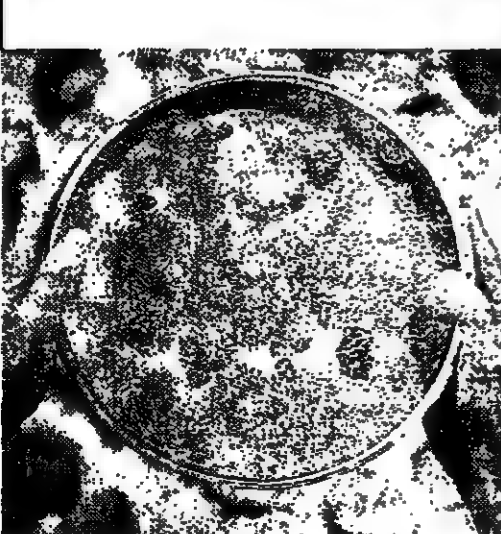
IS IT BECAUSE ALL VICTOR TECHNOLOGIES PRODUCTS OFFER THE FINE BALANCE OF QUALITY AND PRICE?



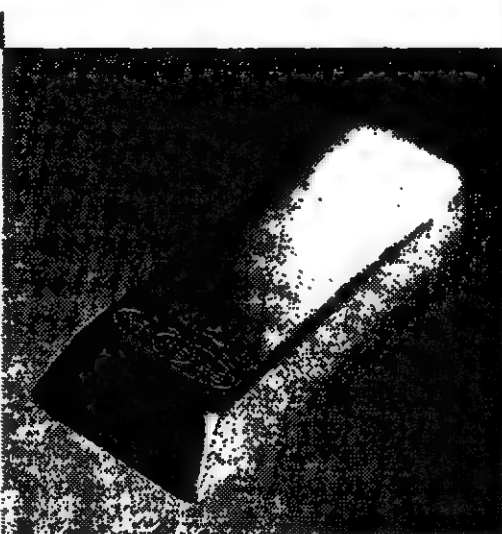
IS IT BECAUSE VICTOR HAS PUT DOWN ROOTS IN SCOTLAND WITH A 130M PLANT EMPLOYING SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE?



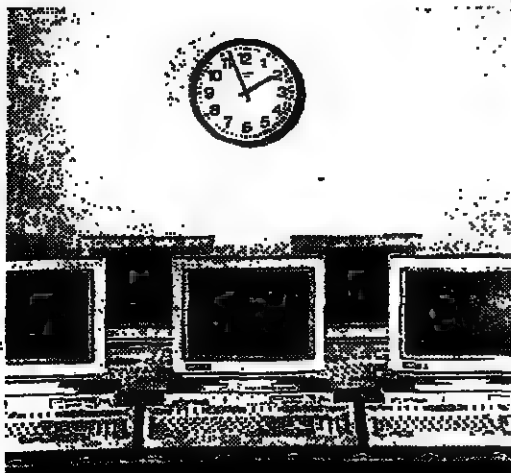
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High street plugs into progress

The chain stores are becoming committed to open systems. Sean Hallahan reports

Is the promise of a truly open computer system an inevitable consequence of the march of technology or a cruel delusion peddled by manufacturers in an effort to increase market share?

All the leading manufacturers are committed to the concept of open systems whereby programs written for one machine will run without alteration on another supplier's hardware. Customers too are being won over to the concept, although most customers are still locked into their suppliers' proprietary systems. What is holding up the move to open systems is the need for a standard operating system that will run on virtually any computer.

If the operating system is the fuel that drives the computing engines, then the search for a universal form of fuel has been going on for nearly 20 years. Imagine the problems motorists would face if they had to go to a different petrol station depending on their make of car. Yet this is exactly the problem for many computer users, even now.

The most popular open systems operating environment is Unix, originally developed in the early 1970s. However, Unix has one drawback - every company has its own implementation of the system and they are almost always incompatible with one another.

Not everybody accepts that Unix is the only route to open systems. IBM, for example, claims its version, Systems Application Architecture, is an open system even though it consists almost entirely of proprietary operating systems to which other machines can be linked.

Others call for a system based on the International Standards Organisation's Open System Interconnection, a set of protocols for linking different machines. Nevertheless, the arguments for

open systems based on Unix are persuasive, and many computer industry groups and several international organisations are trying to establish one implementation as the standard.

Should this be achieved, the customer would be king. In the past he has had to buy machines with an operating system supplied by the manufacturer that effectively gave the supplier a stranglehold on purchasing policy. To change to another manufacturer's machine meant wiping out years of investment in application software and rewriting programs for another - also proprietary - operating system.

Uniform, a British group formed to promote the Unix operating system, has made strenuous efforts in the past year to increase the number of computer users on its board. The board was previously dominated by the suppliers but is now split equally between vendors and users.

User representatives come from organisations as diverse as W.H. Smith, Securicor and British Aerospace. All are committed to a greater or lesser extent to open systems. W.H. Smith, for example, runs a large number of computer systems with machines from IBM and Digital Equipment running proprietary operating systems.

"The move towards openness is because, being the sort of organisation we are, we have had information technology systems for many years and have increased the number of machines through acquisition," says Philip Holt, the company's senior IT corporate consultant. "Open systems means a move towards Unix wherever possible but we are very pragmatic in our approach."

The company's policy is to choose a mix of software and



The modern market: Business needs must come before hardware and software, says Philip Holt, W.H. Smith's senior IT consultant

hardware best suited to business demands. If there is a Unix solution it will be chosen. If not, a proprietary system will be selected. "You have to address the needs of the business before you address the needs of the hardware and software," Mr Holt says.

The biggest Unix users are national and local government and public utilities but there are signs that it is taking hold in the commercial world. For many applications, however, the business community is still mistrustful. There were two traditional objections to Unix in the commercial world - a lack of business software that would run under Unix and the fact that it was difficult to use. These barriers have been gradually broken down, and more and more companies are making their application packages available to run on Unix, including those that write software for the personal computer.

New systems using graphical symbols and other advances have removed many of the objections to operating Unix one has to be a Unix programmer.

Unix still has a long way to go before it is totally accepted in the business community, but at least Unix is no longer an operating system suitable only for the technically minded. Whether it will be the Holy Grail of open systems that the customer seeks has yet to be decided.

COMPANIES EXPERIMENT BEFORE TAKING THE PLUNGE

The adoption of open systems may be the wave of the future, but many users are still only dipping their toes in the water. "Figures are hard to come by, because of the difficulty of defining open systems," says Ted Landbert, of the US National Institute of Science and Technology. However, figures for the use of the Unix operating system give an idea of the progress of open systems, as this is seen as the conductor for the rest of the movement.

The figures show that users are still cautious. Nearly four out of ten (39 per cent) of Britain's large organisations now use Unix, according to a survey by market researcher Romtec. Of Maidenhead, Berkshire, Romtec found 95 per cent of those users were satisfied with the performance of their Unix systems.

Despite that, companies with Unix do only an average of 10 per cent of their information technology work on those machines, "and many of the systems are experimental," says John Whitely, of Romtec.

American companies have made a slightly stronger commitment: "Ten per cent of corporations have a policy to adopt software that adheres to open

Proceed with caution

systems," says Mr Landbert, while half are considering moving to open systems.

The problem is where companies start from. Most organisations still have large proprietary systems, and have to add Unix and open systems piece by piece.

Customers are still hesitant about trusting a large corporate database to a Unix system, so open systems are often relegated to the outskirts of a company. Even if a company decides to move completely to open systems, the process may take years. In the interim two whole systems may be working side by side.

Sometimes smaller users have it easier. Baxters Foods has a £23 million turnover and made a relatively easy move to open systems. Baxters had to keep up

with the grocery industry, where large customers such as Sainsbury, Tesco and Marks & Spencer are demanding electronic data interchange and other open systems technology. "IT systems for the 1990s need to be very flexible, and provide a high level of service to our customers," says Peter Mitchell, the information technology manager.

Fortunately, Baxters found it could rely on one central Unix system, and could move completely within two years. Baxters is moving from a proprietary system to a Unix machine from ICL. At present, the two systems are running in parallel, but the changeover will be completed next year.

Such stories are even more common in the public sector. Mr Whitely reports that nearly 40 per cent of large public sector bodies have written Unix into their plans compared with 16 per cent in the private sector.

Low Brentano, of Infocorp, sees the sector growing twice as fast as the industry average. In the recession, Unix market share should grow, as its selling points include better value.

PETER JUDGE

Building up trust in Unix

One of the original objections to the use of commercial open systems in general and Unix in particular was their inherent insecurity. Sean Hallahan writes. A report by the market research company Ovum noted: "The poor security of Unix used to be the most common reason quoted by users for not turning to Unix."

The report suggests that the commercial users have largely lost their fears over the security of Unix and "they were more concerned with the security loopholes posed by the personal computers which proliferate in their networks than in their Unix systems".

The original mistrust of security lay largely in the fact that Unix was a technical and scientific operating system, used mainly in the academic and research environment.

In the academic world security was low on the list of priorities and the users were largely technicians to whom access to the operating system was more important than the applications.

Now many of the suppliers of software to run under Unix, primarily the database suppliers, build in their own security features, which are independent of the operating system.

Some companies are still cautious about adopting Unix because of poor security, according to Diana Billingham, a senior manager with the computer services group Hoskyns. However, she believes: "There are now moves afoot to improve the situation. You can now buy secure Unix as opposed to regular Unix".

Most importantly, secure Unix is subject to independent evaluation and is validated both by the American Department of Defense and the UK defence ministry. The snag is that it costs 50 per cent more than regular Unix.

Cristoph Michel, the government and public sector marketing manager for Sequent Computers, argues that it is cheaper to prove to the customer that you can meet his security requirements within regular Unix than to sell him a certified system.

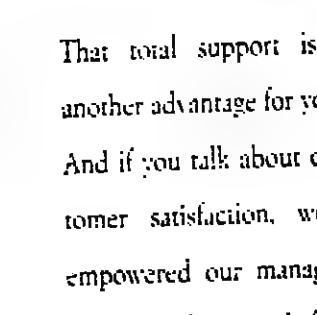
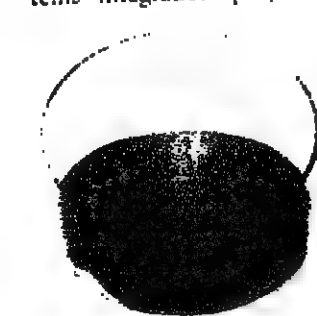
He maintains that the latest release of Unix, System V Release 4.0, which many people expect to become the standard, will reach the B1 category of security, the highest specified by the American government.

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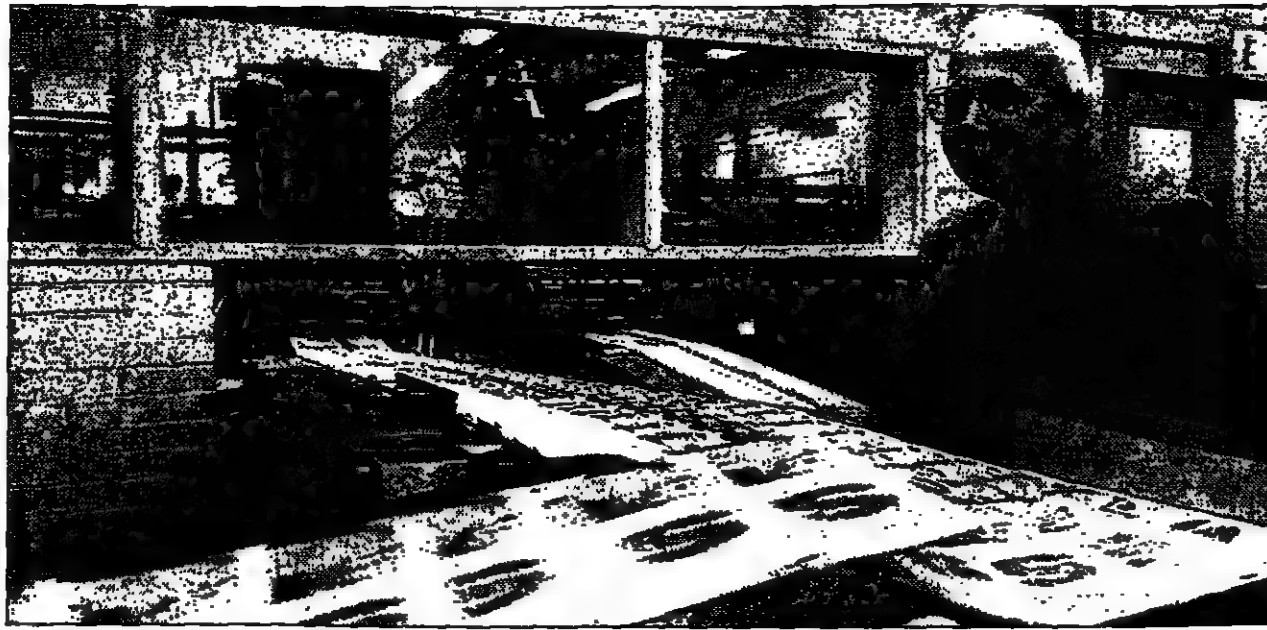
THE
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Taking risks and getting it right

To link its 40 production plants in Britain, BPCC is reorganising the company by spending £5 million on a computer system, Jane Bird writes

Even the coolest chief executive who splashes out millions of pounds on a new computer system must quail at the thought of it being obsolete in five years time. This was certainly a prospect the new management of BPCC wanted to avoid in January, 1989. The management buyout team had just acquired the printing company from Maxwell Communications. They planned large scale computerisation to maximise growth in the company's annual £305 million sales. The problem was that BPCC had more than 40 production plants spread across Britain, from Exeter and Tunbridge Wells to Glasgow and Aberdeen, all linked in to central mainframes in Watford. The plan was to re-organise the company into ten divisions, each with a clear market focus, such as books, journals, catalogues, cheque books and food brand labels. Each division was to be run

as a separate business, with its own administrative centre and a number of production and manufacturing satellites. Individual sites would need to exchange information with the others while keeping the central office up to date. This would mean that jobs could be switched from busy plants to those with spare capacity, says Peter White, BPCC's group IT manager. "A much more complex network was required." BPCC also wanted a system that would be able to incorporate the best innovations in hardware and software in the years to come, and at the most competitive prices. "It all pointed in the same direction - open systems and Unix," Mr White says. The ambitious scope of its plans meant that no single supplier had the total solution. "We had to put together lots of different packages, so they needed to be able to interface and interrelate - another strong argument in favour of



All systems rolling: Peter White, IT manager at BPCC - "We're making radical changes to build a foundation" Unix and open systems," Mr White says. BPCC awarded its contract to one supplier, ICL. "Given the large amount of software and peripherals that had to be integrated, it seemed easier to place the responsibility for making it all work together with a single manufacturer," Mr White says. But BPCC is well aware that the open systems route means not being locked into ICL in future. "We have the fallback position that if ICL fails to supply powerful boxes at some point, we can go to alternative suppliers," Mr White says. The £5 million BPCC implementation is behind schedule. Originally due for completion in April 1991, it is now expected to be a year late. "We were naive in our expectations and some suppliers over optimistic in what they could deliver," says David Buchan, financial director of the magazine division who was responsible for overall business systems strategy. The true cost of the new computer system far exceeds its price tag, Mr Buchan believes, because of the amount of training and restructuring involved. "The cost is enormous, so the last thing that we want is to find in several years that the computer industry has moved at right-angles to us. We're making radical changes and we want to build a foundation, so that in future we can add walls and staircases."

Utopian dream or cash reality?

Of the various arguments advanced in favour of open systems the simplest, and perhaps the most appealing, is the economic one. The champions of the concept maintain that users should be able to save money and logic supports them, David Guest writes. The savings to suppliers through economies of scale, reduced administrative overheads and standard specifications will be passed on in some measure to consumers. The adjustments necessary to make a product suitable for several different types of computer will no longer be relevant. Fragmenting the research and development effort and adapting programs and retooling production lines will not be necessary. The more restrictive and costly aspects of proprietary systems should wither away. This uniformity should have a direct impact on costs in two other ways. Companies that have so far specialised in one or another area of the computer industry - maintenance for Unisys mainframes, perhaps, or payroll programs for DEC minicomputers - should find the whole of the new open computer market available to them. Second, the cost of entry for new companies should be lower than at present and the potential market larger and more attractive. Each of these factors will, in theory, contribute to intense competition. At all levels of computing there should be a greater range of options, and in each category of products and services the competition should be greater than at present. This analysis is, however, largely hypothetical. Computer users apparently regard the prospect of open systems in a Utopian light. As an ideal they may be desirable, but an ideal is of little value in tackling immediate computing problems. One survey conducted by financial consultants Price Waterhouse among information technology managers found that more than half doubted whether the important issues on this subject would be settled in the next 15 years. Logic says that open systems should yield considerable cost savings, although experience suggests otherwise. Which ever is right, assume computer users will continue to spend the money saved as a bonus.

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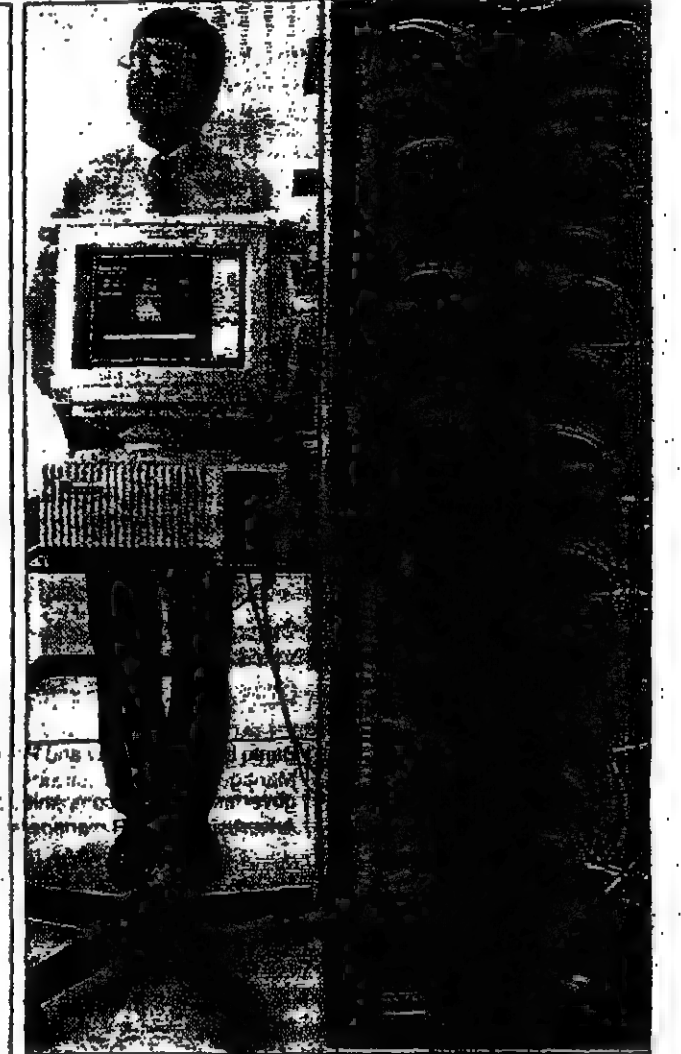
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Inside view: Tandon's intelligent handling of central London feeds five other European countries and a digital network linking the company's 27 offices in Europe and the Gulf. Tandon, a Dow Jones subsidiary company, uses more than 200 kilometres of cabling in the London centre

Confidence will set the course

Before it can lay claim to being a mainstream industry standard, the idea of open systems has to conquer the minds and cheque books of commercial users in Europe, and most importantly the manufacturers. According to a recent report by the Yankee Group, the market is not yet a mature one. The products are patchy, the standards unstable, performance testing is just about getting under way, and prices are fairly high. Demand from the public sector will keep up the momentum during the two to three years it takes for the market to come of age. The uptake of open systems networking is likely to follow the course set by the Unix movement, now becoming well established in Europe. The Unix system has also been adopted by the top European-based computer manufacturers, notably ICL, Olivetti and Siemens. Now, when suppliers talk about open systems policy, they mean the adoption of the Unix operating system and OSI communications standards. However, the computing world has not changed from proprietary systems to one dominated by standards. Suppliers want to exploit their differences and hold on tight to their customers. Some say tip service to conformity and produce their own version of a proposed standard. Smaller suppliers are most keen on open systems since standards open up the large suppliers' markets. Their support continues until they in turn have something to protect. IBM has been criticised for not doing more to make its systems open. However, the recent launch of its Information Warehouse architecture should start to redress some of the balance. This is a framework for managing the mountain of information across an organisation, so it should now become easier for IBM users to access data stored on products from rival manufacturers. IBM claims customers will be able to move to its relational database DB2, yet still retain older databases such as IMS, or products from other database suppliers, including Oracle and Ingres. What Information Warehouse does is bring these different computing platforms together, so that all parts of an organisation can then act upon the same view of the data. If, for example, the company director wishes to talk with a regional manager about sales figures, both know they are talking about the same figures. Other manufacturers are taking a similar path. Since its acquisition by the Japanese giant Fujitsu, ICL has moved more towards personal computers, Unix, and software and away from its traditional position as a maker of proprietary mainframes and minicomputers. And NRC has dumped proprietary mainframe technology in favour of a computer architecture called "scaleability" which offers a complex suite of software modules running across a broad spectrum of machines from PCs to mainframes. This strategy, and the decision to standardise on Unix, has attracted much attention from the American telecommunications giant and original developer of Unix, AT & T. CLIVE COULDWELL

NOTICEBOARD

Taken by surprise

SCHOOLS minister Tim Eggar planned a quiet evening when he went to the speech day at his daughter's new school, the £10,000 a year Downe House, Newbury, Berkshire. Instead he faced a diatribe against the government's failure to provide sufficient resources for state schools to match the best independents.

Expecting to hear Sir Claus Mosser, the warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and founder of the independent Commission on Education, Mr Eggar found himself listening to an attack on government schools' policy from John Izibicki, director of information for the polytechnic directors.

Mr Izibicki told the girls that independent schools were "comprehensives with money" and criticized plans for examination "league tables". Mr Eggar told friends later that he was not sure where to look.

Bookless

BRITISH universities and polytechnics are failing to provide adequate books and journals, according to John Davies, director of the Council of Academic and Professional Publishers. He says that in the ten years since 1979 the expenditure on books for each student measure against the retail price index fell by one third. Spending on periodicals fell by nearly 60 per cent with a total shortfall of £44 million.

Flight path

GIRLS at an independent school in Kent will be able to qualify as flying instructors under a new course being introduced in January. Sixth-formers can



already take flying lessons at the 400-pupil Bedbury school, Goudhurst, and one girl has won her pilot's licence through training arranged by the school. Jennifer Burfoot is now on the reserve list for a sponsored pilot's course with British Airways.

Wet or dry?

SCHOOLS that correctly forecast the weather on Christmas Day will win prizes totalling £20,000 in a competition organised by ITV and PowerGen, the electricity generating company which sponsors the ITV weather forecasts.

Strong measures

THE students' union bar at Wye Agricultural College, near Ashford, Kent, was shut for three days following rowdy behaviour and damage, including broken windows, doors and the misuse of fire extinguishers.

Alan Buckwell, the vice-principal, said: "After the terrible drunken behaviour by some of the students, I ordered the closure of the bar for three nights as a warning."

GPST head



ANNE HOGG is to be the new chairman of the Girls' Public Day School Trust which runs 26 independent schools in England. Dr Hogg is married to Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds and Reuter. They have two daughters and Dr Hogg runs her own training consultancy. Educated at Channing School, Highgate, London, and at St Anne's College, Oxford, she has worked with the Ford Foundation and at Harvard University, and has taught Spanish at her old college.

DAVID TYTLER

Teachers want 15% but the government wants pay rises linked to performance. Hugh Thompson tests the classroom atmosphere

Low marks for payment by results

PHOTOGRAPHS ALAN WELLES

Teachers will be paid according to performance if Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has his way. He has asked the Pay Review Body, which will set the pay levels for the 440,000 teachers in state schools in England and Wales from next April, to consider ways in which good teachers can be rewarded by increasing the discretionary awards available.

Mr Clarke believes that the performance of heads and deputies could be related to yearly improvements in the way the school was run, taking into account examination results, truancy

and staying on rates, and where pupils go after they leave school. Governing bodies would also set targets for heads, such as relations between parents and teachers and the state of the school buildings. Appraisal reports, which will soon be compulsory for all teachers, would also be taken into account.

Teachers' unions have demanded a 15 per cent pay rise, way ahead of inflation, in an attempt to make up what they consider to be the erosion of their real wages and living standards. Any system of performance-related pay, the teachers argue, would have to calculate not only exam success,

weighing it against the social background where that was appropriate, but also all the other achievements of a school. Who could judge, for example, whether making an illiterate child write a letter was more valuable than organising a timetable?

Sandringham School, at St Albans, Hertfordshire, was formed when two schools amalgamated two years ago and has become one of the most popular comprehensives in the city, with a good discipline record. How do its staff view the prospect of payment by results?



HEAD OF THE UPPER SCHOOL

GRAEME SWANN has been teaching for 14 years and is head of Sandringham's humanities and the upper school. He earns £20,000 a



year. He cannot afford to live in St Albans and commutes daily from Luton. In order to afford holidays in places like Swanage he does painting and decorating as a second job. Fifteen years ago a teacher's annual salary was about half the cost of a house in St Albans. Now it is one twelfth. Mr Swann says: "I do a lot of work in counselling and administration, which is not teaching. How do you measure improvement which is not related to exam success? I am not against the idea of performance-related pay but what can it be based on that is meaningful to all staff?"

THE HEADMASTER

STEVEN ANDREWS, the 40-year-old head teacher, joined the profession after a successful career in leading manufacturing companies in Britain and Japan. He has a teaching staff of 100 and handles an annual budget of £2 million. He earns £33,000 a year, the same as he did 15 years ago as a manager in industry. As his wife earns a similar salary he feels he and his only child can have few complaints about their lifestyle.

However, he has plenty of criticisms of any performance-related pay, which in his case could be linked to the school's examination results. "For a start, the results are out of date," he says. "They are based on pupil intake five years ago. For this school, that was a time when we were about to close. Exam results are largely a function of the children's backgrounds."



"Those head teachers who recruit from leafy suburbs will always get better results than those in deprived inner-city areas. While the head teacher in the suburbs can get his results just by flowing with the tide, the inner-city head has to create white water to get anywhere. There are so many ways to judge a school or a teacher. "Are they effective, do the children attend regularly, do the staff take on extra responsibilities? We have created a successful school by very simple management means. Everybody responds to being valued, being praised and involved. People will work for what they believe in. "Teachers are qualified people, they are part of a culture that is totally wedded to criticism and appraisal, they prefer scrutiny from those who can be objective rather than those who are next in line. Of course, if you pay people more they are easier to manage, but you can create good morale even in the most adverse circumstances. "This is not the time to bring in performance-related pay as a way of implicitly criticising teachers. Now is a time that teachers should be praised for getting better results, helping more children stay on longer, for making many more capable of going through to higher education."

THE HUMANITIES TEACHER

KALPANA MEHTA has been teaching for five years. She teaches humanities with a special interest in history. She earns £16,000 a year and, although she has recently married a systems analyst, she

THE ENGLISH TEACHER

PAM PARKER has been teaching for 25 years. She teaches nearly full-time, with special responsibilities in English and to children with special learning difficulties. She earns £10,000 a year. She says: "I can only afford to teach because my husband, a research chemist, picks up most of the bills. Her situation is a common one and is one reason why

the money, you do it for the satisfaction. The reward in teaching is helping children improve, taking them further, but for many that falls far short of exams. The important thing is to add value."



TEACHERS' POSITIONS: AVERAGE PROFESSIONAL WEEKLY EARNINGS

Occupation	£	Occupation	£
Medical practitioners	617.70	Marketing and sales managers	462.60
Health professionals	558.80	Personnel and industrial relations managers	459.80
Scientists	544.80	Company secretaries	428.40
Legal professionals	551.10	Chartered and certified accountants	422.90
Bank, building society and Post Office managers	530.00	Engineers and technologists	415.10
Management administrators in national and local government, companies and organisations	492.40	Biological scientists and biochemists	367.30
Advertising and PR managers	482.70	Secondary education teachers	359.80
University and polytechnic teachers	485.50	Primary and nursery education teachers	330.20
		Social workers, probation officers	279.40

Figures (for full-time employees on adult rates) compiled by Income Data Services using the New Earnings Survey Part A, 1991

How girls have made the grade among boys

JEREMY Woodhouse, the registrar at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, remembers listening to two boys just after girls were admitted into the lower school. One said: "She turned round and answered me back. In front of everyone. I'd have hit her, if she were a boy. Just how are you supposed to deal with girls?"

Although Marlborough has been co-educational in the upper school since 1968, it accepted girls of 13 and 14 only from September 1989. The master, David Cope, struck by the dominant male ethos when he arrived, felt the time was right for co-education throughout the school. He admits: "You do not change the culture overnight." One of the new intake, Fiona Macfarlane, aged 16, remembers feeling like a guinea pig. "They were completely unprepared for us and did not know the first thing about coping with younger girls," she says. "Did we need cooking, or needlework lessons? What sort of sports should we do? How long should we spend doing them?"

In addition, the boys, particularly those from single-sex prep schools, were overwhelmed. "There is this thing called a 'grief', explains Elena Millar, aged 16, "which is basically giving somebody a hard time. The dining hall is where you get the most grief. When we walked in on the first day with our kilts on [standard school uniform], the whole place just stood up. Nobody had seen the kilts before and the boys screamed at us and banged their trays. I stood there thinking, 'Oh, God, I've made the biggest mistake of my life.'"

Even then, Elena escaped lightly. She later discovered the boys used to hold up score cards and give the new recruits marks out of ten.

Although the girls were heavily outnumbered, and still are, by almost three to one, Elena's previous experience at a mixed preparatory school helped her to cope. Vicky Hamsley, aged 15, was not so fortunate. "I had gone to a single-sex school, so it was a bit of a shock to realise that

The problems of co-education at Marlborough College are fading fast



Looking forward: more girls are expected to apply most of the pupils were boys," she explains. "Whenever I walked into a classroom, I would just think how much louder it was."

The boys admit now they were "just being unpleasant". Alex Young, aged 16, explains: "We had to stamp our authority over them. If a girl asked to borrow a pen, for example, we would not just give it to her. We would throw it. That was worn out now."

Two years later, staff and pupils agree that admitting girls has worked. "The social atmosphere has changed and become more relaxed," Mr Cope confirms. "The pupils behave more pleasantly towards one another and there is mutual respect between the sexes. It has taken the edge off the boys' loutish and laddish behaviour."

This looks likely to continue. Marlborough has four girls' houses and a fifth is to open in 1993. Staff and pupils

agree that a 2-1 ratio will feel comfortable, that the school will then feel properly co-educational. However, the Equal Opportunities Commission pointed out recently that the school could be prosecuted if it tried to limit its intake of girls.

"At the moment we get far more boys applying, but we can expect the number of applications from girls to go up steadily," Mr Cope says. "I am a genuine believer in equality, so it is slightly irritating when we are misrepresented as a school trying to hang on to traditional values."

The girls' values have also changed. "I remember when we first arrived, we used to get up at 5.30am to have a shower and wash our hair," Fiona laughs. "Then we would spend about an hour putting on our make-up. Eventually, you realise there is no point. The boys see you at your worst, anyway."

ALTHOUGH Marlborough has never been a regimented school, discipline has had to be re-thought. The boys' nocturnal movements have been restricted. "The boys used to tell us it was our fault they were not allowed to go out after prep," says Nicky Whittle, aged 16. "They found it hard to accept that they had more freedom lower down the school than they do now, while it was just the opposite for us. When we arrived, we could climb through the windows. But the teachers soon realised what we were up to. Now we can only open them about six inches."

Two girls who were found in the grounds after dark for the second time were expelled, as were a couple found in bed together. But some rules are harder to formulate than others. Public displays of affection are frowned upon. If a couple are seen with arms around each other, or publicly embracing, they are usually warned.

That there should even be rules to veto this kind of behaviour, however, shows just how far the school has developed.

JANE CAMERON

EDUCATION



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Further particulars may be obtained from Professor G. P. Eschew, Astrophysics, Nuclear and Astrophysics Laboratory, Keble Road, Oxford, OX1 3RH. Applications (eight copies except in the case of overseas candidates when only one is required) should be submitted to Prof. Eschew by 18th January 1992. They should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, a statement of research interests and teaching experience and the names of three referees, who should be asked to send references directly to reach the above address by the closing date.

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Unless candidates state otherwise it will be assumed that applications are for either Lecturership. Applications (8 copies except in the case of overseas candidates when only one is required) should be sent to Prof. Cowley to arrive by 18th January 1992. They should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, a statement of research interests and teaching experience and the names and addresses of three referees.

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In association with Balliol College

Applications are invited for the above post. The successful candidate may be offered a tutorial fellowship by Balliol College. Further particulars may be obtained from Prof. R. J. Cashmore, Particle and Nuclear Physics, Keble Road, Oxford, OX1 3RH.

The present experimental research programme of the Particle and Nuclear Physics Laboratory includes experiments with the DELPHI detector at LEP (CERN) and ZEUS detector at HERA (DESY); the SOULAM 2 experiment on proton decay; measurement of neutrino mass; the Sudbury solar neutrino project; development of cryogenic detectors. The Department would expect the appointee to participate in some of the above programmes, or develop new initiatives associated with future accelerator projects.

Applications (8 copies except in the case of overseas candidates when only one is required) should be sent to arrive no later than 18th January 1992. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, a statement of research interests and teaching experience and the names of three referees. References should be asked to send references direct to Professor Cashmore to arrive by the closing date.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in Oxford on 2nd and 3rd March 1992. All applicants are asked to indicate a telefax, email or telephone number where they can be contacted during the period 19th February to 27th February.

UNIVERSITY LECTURERSHIP
IN THEORETICAL PHYSICS

In association with Brasenose College

Applications are invited for a University Lecturership in Physics to be held in the sub-department of Theoretical Physics, particularly from candidates with research interests in the general areas of Elementary Particle Theory or Condensed Matter Theory. The successful candidate may be offered an Official Fellowship and Lecturership at Brasenose College. Further particulars may be obtained from Prof. D. Sherrington, Theoretical Physics, 1 Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3PU, (Tel. 01865) 272224, FAX (01865) 272400, Tel. 01865 272401, Email SHERRINGTON@PHLOX.AC.UK.

Applications (8 copies except in the case of overseas candidates when only one is required) should be submitted to Prof. Sherrington by 13th January 1992. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, a brief statement of research interests and teaching experience, together with the names of three referees, who should be asked to send references direct to Prof. Sherrington by the above date.

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Under a bill published today, polytechnics will become universities and the higher education map will be redrawn. Two writers assess the implications

What's in a change of name?

The government's higher education plans, revealed in a white paper in May and to be implemented by a bill published today, seem to break the binary mould that has shaped the system for more than a generation.

The last vestiges of the universities' special place will go, the polytechnics will become universities and award degrees, and both will be funded by a single agency. Many see removing the distinction between universities and polytechnics as a condition of wider access, the doubling of the proportion of young people in higher education — not the same as doubling student numbers because of demographic shifts — which the government still regards as an aspiration rather than a firm target. Many consider this expansion as qualitative as well as quantitative. Britain's final break with elite higher education and plunge towards a mass system. We are, it seems, on the brink of an educational, even a cultural, revolution.

The plans are less than this — and more. They are less because ministers propose a package of limited reforms. First, the Universities Funding Council and the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council will be replaced by a single council — or three councils, because separate bodies will serve Scotland and Wales.

The new council will not fund all institutions equally, however. Research and teaching grants will be separated, so the top universities will receive extra money. The council is also likely to reward institutions that take more students or can show they provide high-quality undergraduate education. Funding, although from a

single council, could be more selective than at present.

Second, although polytechnics will adopt university titles, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, insists there must be no confusion with existing universities. Nor will polytechnics receive royal charters. They will be designated in a schedule to the bill. Mr Clarke has also given a stiff warning that polytechnics must stick to their present mission. So the message is confused. Are the reforms a vote of confidence in polytechnics, and, *sotto voce*, a vote of no confidence in universities? This widely accepted account is probably the more accurate one in the short term. However, one can argue that ending the binary policy shows the university is the only truly stable institutional currency, despite the polytechnics' efforts to establish an alternative higher education.

There is another uncertainty. Can the new policy be compared to the comprehensive reorganisation of secondary education in the 1960s, with universities cast as grammar schools and polytechnics as secondary moderns? That interpretation is espoused publicly by Lord Beloff and privately by the silent majority in the universities. Or will the changes lead to a widening of the idea of a university to embrace the more open further education traditions represented by the polytechnics, and remove the obstacles to that radical extension of higher education that took place in the United States and much of Continental Europe a generation ago? The plans are more revolutionary than ministers perhaps envisage because breaking the binary mould, like the end of the cold war, is likely to start a chain reaction of unintended consequences. For a quarter of a century the institutional pattern of British higher education has been fixed, like the politics of Eastern Europe under communism. The majority view is that, even with the ending of the binary system, this pattern will change only slowly — but a year ago the majority view of the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia was not dissimilar. In fact, British higher education is likely to change radically during the 1990s. First, a premier division of American-style research universities is almost bound to emerge.



The candidates are obvious — Oxford, Cambridge, the main London colleges, the big civics. Second, institutions will get much bigger, because of a rapid increase in students, because smaller colleges of higher education will be swallowed up, because by 2000 there may have been a few big-bang mergers between universities and polytechnics. Third, further education colleges will have become embroiled in higher education. As well as offering special access programmes for disadvantaged students and cooperating with universities

in continuing education, they may provide significant parts of degree courses on a franchise basis.

Finally, most important of all, the pattern of higher education may have been transformed. Some campuses will have created an entirely new environment for student learning. The chipping-up of courses into transferable modules will allow students to dip into and out of higher education. And older values and practices will slip into disuse — and occasionally disrepute.

PETER SCOTT

The author is the editor of The Higher, the Times higher education supplement

Even a title has its problems

Higher education will never be the same again as a result of the bill that has its first reading in the House of Lords today. Even a change of government would not alter the long-term picture as Labour accepts the main proposals.

The number of English universities will almost double, and Scotland and Wales will have separate higher education systems for the first time. London, which already has three universities on almost 40 sites, will acquire another eight.

Virtually all the polytechnics intend to take university titles when the legislation is enacted. Even those most committed to the polytechnic ethos are convinced that the university label confers advantages that cannot be spurned in attracting students and research funds. Only a handful have yet to

Anglia Poly is offering two bottles of champagne for a suitable alternative

is considering regional combinations, including Sherwood University Nottingham.

Market research has convinced directors they should keep their city affiliations in their titles. Polytechnic Southwest's applications dropped when it changed its name from Plymouth Polytechnic and now intends to become Plymouth University even though it has sites in Exeter, Exmouth and Newton Abbot.

Ironically, one of the few polytechnics that wants to take a regional title also faces difficulty. Anglia Polytechnic, split between Chelmsford and Cambridge, has been beaten to its preferred title by the University of East Anglia.

The directorate is offering two bottles of champagne for a suitable alternative. Humber Polytechnic has a problem because the Boundary Commission may abolish

ish Humber. Inevitably, the greatest complications are in London, where Thames Polytechnic is to become the University of Greenwich, and the Polytechnic of Central London, the University of Westminster, but three others want to retain London in their titles. London University has warned all the intractable problems over the new identity. All have neighbouring universities sharing their city titles and eager to avoid potentially damaging confusion.

The vice-chancellors have been unusually sensitive. They wrote to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, arguing that the description "city university" would imply that the established universities were less committed to their local communities, while "new university" would suggest that the former polytechnics were more modern and vigorous. Mr Clarke agreed, although the Privy Council will arbitrate on any disputes.

Newcastle Polytechnic has chosen the city university title and is encountering opposition from Newcastle University. Liverpool Polytechnic has considered calling itself the University of Merseyside, and Nottingham Polytechnic

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Tactical mistakes leave England to reflect on their magnificent failure in the Rugby World Cup final at Twickenham

Superb Australia provide the crowning glory

England 6
Australia 12

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE southern hemisphere's grip is difficult to prise from the Webb Ellis Cup. It passed, via the Queen's hands, from New Zealand to Australia at Twickenham on Saturday in a World Cup final that was spectacular to watch, thrilling in its competitiveness yet flawed as an epic occasion by the tactical naivety of the losing side.

In winning the hearts of the country, in crowning a tournament notable for its sportsmanship with a final unmarred by any unsightliness, in committing themselves so completely to the running game, England forgot the way they might have won the match. It was magnificent, as the Marchal Bosquet said as he watched the Charge of the Light Brigade, but it was not war.

It was a final Australia might well have lost, but their victory by a goal and two penalty goals to two penalty goals was the crowning moment of a tournament they thoroughly deserved to win. There has been praise for England in reaching the final via Paris and Edinburgh, but what of the Wallabies tramping through foreign fields, disposing of the All Blacks on the way and England on her own cabbage patch?

Attacks don't win matches, defences do, David Campese said afterwards. I am not sure he meant it, but it has been true of these young Australians, whose defence has conceded only three tries throughout the tournament. They were rock-steady in the second half of the semi-final against New Zealand and, on Saturday, deprived of possession for long periods of the game, they never faltered. England seldom posed questions they could not answer.

Their reading of the game remains without parallel. Farr-Jones and Lynch are not



only remarkably accomplished half backs, they know where to go to be most effective in defence. Farr-Jones was unwell for much of Saturday evening, and was forced to leave the official banquet: even there, though, his partner dealt with the closing plaudits.

Yet Farr-Jones, who sets the best possible example for his players off the field as well as on, paid a remarkable tribute to England: "At the end of the game, I and my team-mates were exhausted," he said. "Against the All Blacks, we felt we could have gone on another 40 minutes. England ran at us so many times, we had to make so many tackles that it was a far more tiring game. I just lay in the bath for 30 minutes afterwards, I was so absolutely exhausted."

I do not believe that the England pack could have played any better, notably in the loose where the advancing years proved no barrier, but behind them, the backs could not suddenly construct a game they have deliberately avoided for so much of the last year. Effective back play, the timing and pace of the pass, the instinctive knowledge for the right option, is the product of habit under pressure, not only the training ground.

"We believe the way we played was the way to beat Australia," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said. But there were sufficient hints after the match that, just like the previous weekend at Murrayfield, England departed through accident or design from the game plan. Against Scotland, they won, just, against Australia, they lost, just.

They were unlikely to turn



Clinching moment: the Australian forwards celebrate as the final whistle blows on their memorable triumph over England at Twickenham on Saturday

Australia simply by running at them, but the variations were missing. Moreover, Australia, all-round team that they are, knew that every player could perform all the basic chores demanded of them. Thus they could afford to stand Poidevin and Ofahegaue, two quite outstanding back-row forwards, out of the rucks and maids to reinforce the back line. They could even rely on tight forwards like Eales making saving tackles, as he did on Andrew when England, having caught Lynch in rare isolation and robbed him of the ball, looked like scoring a try.

"We have paid a lot of attention to defence and it takes some getting through," Bob Dwyer, their coach, said. "Farr-Jones added: 'We talked on Friday night about not leaving things for anyone

else. They're the things that win games and give the team so much inspiration.' Thus it was that England, whose stand-off half received more than twice the possession Lynch did, ran the ball from the start and lost, and Australia, against the odds, scored the only try through a prop forward.

Dwyer would have taken satisfaction from that. He has insisted that the game is for all the players and so many contributed to the try. Horan, with a breakout from deep defence when Carling kicked for Underwood, Ofahegaue by winning a lineout jumping out of position and the two props joyfully driving over with Daly given the credit of the touchdown.

England's first try-scoring opportunity created something of a stir. They had the

greater share of ball and territory in the first half, yet trailed 9-0 at the interval, Lynch having kicked his second penalty goal opportunity into the blustery wind and converted. Daly's try, all within three minutes, while Webb was missing with two penalties, the second from 24 metres with the wind. The two goal-kickers exchanged second-half penalty goals before Winterbottom, making the extra man among the backs, saw his pass to Underwood deliberately knocked down by Campese.

The Australian wing had seen little of the ball: now he stuck out a hand in the knowledge that Underwood was otherwise clear. On another day, it might have been an interception: here, it looked like a defender prepared to concede three points.

Another referee might have awarded a penalty try, the conversion of which would have brought England to 12-9 and would have acted as a spur.

Would they then have won? Perhaps, but against that can be set the score Campese would have registered in the first half but for the bounce of the ball. Moreover, it is a mark of the respect these Australians have earned, and the game that they play, that no one quarrelled, or even wanted to, with the result.

Donington tops

This year's British motorcycle grand prix at Donington Park in August has been voted the best conducted event of the season in the world championship by the main teams and sponsors. It is the second time in three years that the circuit has won the award.

THE match statistics underline England's failure to take advantage of both possession and territorial advantage. What they fail to show is that, even in the Australian half, many of England's attacks were from outside the 22 - what Bob Templeton, the Australian assistant coach, calls "the killing ground". Ironically, when England created the position for a scrum two metres out in the second half they did not go for the pushover which would have been their instant choice against the Scots a week earlier. Instead, they created the impression of doing so but released the ball, and Archer's disposal was wide.

That they be "killing" to Australia's scrum-half was looked to be one occasion when it was worth trying. On such decisions do the winning, and losing, of games depend.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

SCORERS: England: Penalty goals: Webb (2), Australia: Try: Daly, Conversion: Lynch. Penalty goals: Lynch (2). ENGLAND: W D C Carling (Hooker), J O G Jones (Prop), M G C Jones (Prop), G R Andrew (Wing), R J Hill (Wing), J Leonard (Wing), B C Moore (Wing), A J Probert (Wing), M G Skinner (Wing), P J Ackford (Wing), W A Dooley (Wing), P J Winterbottom (Wing), M C Teague (Wing).

AUSTRALIA: M C Roebuck (Hooker), R H Egan (Prop), J S Lide (Prop), G I Campese (Wing), M P Lynch (Wing), T J Horan (Wing), A J Daly (Wing), E J McAlister (Wing), P N Keane (Wing), P Poidevin (Wing), R J McCall (Wing), J A Eales (Wing), V Ofahegaue (Wing), T Collier (Wing), R Egan (Wing).

The day even the leading player bowed to the need for defence

There is no obligation on the World Cup winners to bequeath anything to rugby at large. The victory in the match itself and the success and survival instincts which were so necessary and evident on the way to the final are testimony enough of Australia's worthiness to lift the cup. That should be enough. They have no need to explain themselves; nor even attempt to claim a higher ideal of rugby.

They had shown in their awkward opening match that when Argentina came back within winning distance in the second half, Australia, like the supreme tennis player who has dropped his own service, could respond immediately - as they were to show, also, when they returned from the brink against Ireland in Dublin. There, with two minutes to go, when the match had seemed lost, they made every second count to mount a winning attack. They demonstrated immense composure and will, under pressure. It was the single moment, if such there can be, which marked them as champions.

Against Western Samoa at Pontypool, in the worst conditions of the tour-



Gerald Davies argues that Australia consistently showed the versatility of true world champions

ament, they showed, despite their rare experience of such insistent rain, that they could adapt their tactics accordingly. They did so, too, without their much-respected captain.

However much the performances of the All Blacks lacked conviction, the feeling persisted that the team which should lift the cup would first have to overcome them. In semi-final and final, when possession of the ball deserted Australia, a superbly organised and unbending defence won the day. Australia compensated admirably for their apparent deficiencies. Against Wales, whose rugby psyche has all but been destroyed, they were able to score a lot of points.

Rugby ought to inherit a rich legacy from this year's World Cup winners, as it did from those who won the first. Can there ever have been a time when a wing became such a focal theme in the team's tactics? This

may appear a small point, but indicates Australia's willingness to shift perceptively the emphasis.

What about the front five forwards, the back row? Well, yes, they exercise a persuasive influence. And the lineout? Well, yes, again. And the half backs? Well, of course.

But we all understand this, and know how much many a club coach will pontificate heavily every winter weekend throughout every season upon them. But how many will put the wing to such good use, rather than allow him to languish in the hope that something might soon come his way? It is a sterile approach.

The wing, as we hear so often, is on the periphery of the game; a man who ought, really, to be thankful for the smallest mercies. An afterthought among the larger issues of the team talk and merely a footnote in the

coach's tactical manual. David Campese should prick the conscience of many such a coach.

Matters were manoeuvred to accommodate Campese's needs. He was allowed the freedom to run at will. He was most certainly his own man. But the essence of his extraordinary talent was also recognised within the team and allowances made for them. His gifts were harnessed in their strategy. The slick Australian mid-field manoeuvres were designed with him in mind. He was there to attract as well as distract attention; he was included or missed. He was never ignored.

In this, Bob Dwyer, not a little persuaded I fancy by Bob Templeton, is to be congratulated for giving the wing his stage. Few coaches have the wit and courage to consider the wing in this way. No one in the history of the game has implemented the wing's talents and given him his rightful place in the sun.

We did not see much of Campese on Saturday. But here was Australia's strength. They did not "carry" any player. Each had his role to play and the time to play it in. Saturday was the day for defence.

A famous and furious victory that came from the collective heart

THE Rugby World Cup final undoubtedly provided the best opportunity for one of 30 men to grasp at those 15 minutes of fame that Andy Warhol said we were all due.

In a sense, nobody took the opportunity offered, but in another sense they all did. There was no single act of brilliance, no dominating performance which reached out from the field of play to grab the audience, shake them and say: "Look at me. Remember my name. I'm the one who took the most important game in the history of my sport and made it my own." And yet there were 30 men who took the most important game in the history of their sport and shook it until nothing but the very dregs of endeavour remained. For them, the 15 minutes of individual fame were substituted for 80 minutes of collective fame. The final was a famous game and all those who played in it should justly be remembered as famous men.

For a game which has always prided itself on being a true team game, in which there can be no thoroughbreds without donkeys, it is nothing more than the sport deserves that we should remember the match for the



David Kirk, the former New Zealand captain, pays tribute to a great World Cup final

performances of two teams called Australia and England rather than the performances of men called Campese or Carling.

That said, there were some special displays, remarkable not because they were such as to make us mark them down as "brilliant" or "fantastic" but because they were performances of rare courage and an old-fashioned virtue, perseverance. The quality of



Winterbottom: struggled

character, which separates the top sportsmen from the next level down, is at least as important as the abilities and skills that are inherited and developed.

The success of international teams so often depends, not on the quality of their individuals nor on the scientific nature of their preparation, but on the simple strength of character that says: "I will not be beaten."

The absolute refusal to bow to what looked inevitable marked the performance of the entire England team in the second half. One could, of course, argue that they had nothing to lose. Nine points behind with only 40 minutes to play, it was not a question of can we afford to take risks? And so they did. Ackford and Dooley produced another Herculean lineout display, the back three tackled and drove and supported and rucked and ran as they had never done before and the

backs, although wanting under pressure and susceptible to mistakes in option-taking, tried everything. Peter Winterbottom typified the fame the game produced. On the face of it he was not a "star". Indeed, he threw his pass in the second half which looked more like he was trying to lob the goalkeeper in a game of handball than find his man. But his display in struggling to find an extra dimension to his game, that of runner and passer, as it became clear that that was what was required, was one of great fortitude.

England's fame then rests with their courage to create but it was that unique virtue, the courage to destroy, which determined to whom the greatest measure of fame should attach. Farr-Jones tackling Guscott, Campese tackling Underwood, Eales tackling Andrew, Poidevin tackling everybody, were the enduring memories for me. But, in reality, there were no names or numbers on the Australian defenders' backs, but a sea of yellow.

Australia did not win the World Cup in a blaze of glorious running and passing, they won it in an awesome display of nerve and heart.

Rugby captures the hearts of nations

MORE than one million people attended the Rugby World Cup matches while two billion watched the tournament on television worldwide. Russ Thomas, the chairman of the organisers, said yesterday.

He said television coverage was shown in 70 countries with at least 40 broadcasting the final live.

The final at Twickenham provided the first £1 million gate in the history of the game, although final figures on the financial outcome will not be known until March. (Reuters)

□ Sava - The leading Fiji Rugby Football Union (FRFU) executives have resigned following an outcry over Fiji's dismal performance.

The resignations have renewed fears about moves by some discontented provincial unions to replace executives with one headed by the army coup leader, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka.

Two main unions have been pushing for the replacement of Tomasi Vuetivoni as chairman with Rabuka, a former rugby international and co-deputy prime minister.

RESULTS AND SCORERS

Pool 1
N Zealand 3
England 3
Italy 3
US 3

RESULTS: England 12, New Zealand 18, Italy 30, United States 9, New Zealand 46, United States 6, England 36, Italy 6, England 37, United States 9, New Zealand 51, Italy 21.

Pool 2
Scotland 3
Ireland 3
Japan 3
Zimbabwe 3

RESULTS: Scotland 47, Japan 9, Ireland 55, Zimbabwe 11, Ireland 32, Japan 16, Scotland 51, Zimbabwe 12, Scotland 24, Ireland 15, Zimbabwe 8, Japan 52.

Pool 3
Australia 3
W Samoa 3
Fiji 3
Argentina 3

RESULTS: Australia 32, Argentina 19, Wales 13, Western Samoa 16, Australia 9, Western Samoa 3, Wales 18, Argentina 7, Wales 3, Australia 36, Argentina 12, Western Samoa 35.

Pool 4
France 3
Canada 3
Romania 3
Fiji 3

RESULTS: France 30, Romania 3, Fiji 15, France 19, Canada 13, Fiji 15, France 19, Canada 13. □ Teams in pool matches were awarded three points for a victory, two

for a draw and, if defeated, one for fulfilling the fixture.

Quarter-finals
Scotland 28, Western Samoa 6 (at Murrayfield)

France 10, Ireland 18 (in Paris)

Australia 19, England 16 (in Dublin)

New Zealand 29, Canada 13 (in Lille)

Semi-finals
Scotland 6, England 9 (at Murrayfield)

Scotland: Penalty goals: G Hastings (2), England: Penalty goals: Webb (2), Ireland: goal: Andrew.

Third place play-off
Scotland 6, New Zealand 13 (in Cardiff)

Scotland: Penalty goals: G Hastings (2), New Zealand: Try: Lide. Penalty goals: Preston (2).

Final
Australia 12, England 6 (at Twickenham)

England: Try: Daly, Conversion: Lynch. Penalty goals: Lynch (2).

LEADING SCORERS
INDIVIDUAL: Tries: 8: D Campese (Aus), J-B Lafont (Fr), 4: T Horan (Aus), B Robinson (Ire), T Tukalo (Scot), R Underwood (Eng), 3: T Wright (NZ), M Taran (Arg), V Yoshida (Jpn), A Stanger (Scot), J Tumu (NZ). Points: 68: G Hastings (Scot), 62: M Lynch (Aus), 61: G Hastings (Scot), 56: J Webb (Eng), 44: G Fox (NZ), 32: D Cambarbero (Fr), 29: D Dominiquez (Fr).

(R), T Hosokawa (Jpn), 25: M Vaea (W Sam), 24: D Campese (Aus), J-B Lafont (Fr).

TEAMS: Tries: 19: New Zealand, Scotland, 17: Australia, 13: Ireland, 12: France, 11: England, 10: Argentina, 14: Scotland vs Australia, New Zealand, 9: England, Japan, 7: Ireland, Italy, Penalty goals: 17 (from 29 attempts): England, 16 (22): Ireland, 16 (24): Scotland, 16 (23): New Zealand, 12 (25): Australia, 10 (16): France, Dropped goals: 4 (from 4 attempts): Fr, 2 (2): Ireland, 2 (4): Canada, England, 2 (5): Scotland, 2 (6): Argentina.

FAIR PLAY: Zimbabwe won the Henz fair play award. The referees assessors, who judged the award and took into account incidents not punished by a referee, said Zimbabwe were chosen because they did not concede a penalty for foul or dangerous play in their three matches. Western Samoa and Argentina were disqualified for having a player sent off.

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McColgan's marathon debut is a classic

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

LIZ McColgan, the world 10,000 metres champion, confirmed here yesterday her potential to become the greatest woman marathon runner in history when, in her first race at the distance, she won one of the classics, the New York City marathon. In her wake she left two of the most accomplished exponents of the discipline, Joana Samuelson and Lisa Ondieki.

McColgan proved as good as her word, restraining herself in the early stages and waiting until she was sure that she had the strength to win before putting her foot down and pulling away for victory in 2hr 27min 23sec. She had said that time would not matter as long as she won, and the fact that she was outside the British best of 2hr 25min 56sec, held by Veronique Martot, did not concern her.

"Next time I will be better prepared and might go for a fast time," McColgan said. Her triumph came within two weeks of becoming Britain's only individual winner at the world championships in Tokyo and was the fastest debut by a woman. The previous best was the 2hr 30min 37sec

by Sylvia Ruegger, of Canada, in Ottawa in 1984.

Samuelson, the 1984 Olympic Champion and, with a best time of 2hr 21min 21sec, the second fastest of all time, reached only 17 miles before dropping off the pace, at which point Olga Markova, of the Soviet Union, began to show as a contender, reducing by half the one-minute deficit which had existed between her and the leaders at halfway. At 21 miles she joined McColgan and Ondieki, the Commonwealth champion, but enjoyed the ride only briefly.

McColgan's intention had been to wait until 25 miles, knowing that she possessed the best basic speed, but she changed her mind after seeing Markova arrive. With 23 miles gone, McColgan, aged 28, began to realise that she would be comfortable over the full distance in spite of her inexperience. In the process, neither Ondieki, the fourth fastest in history with 2hr 23min 51sec, nor Markova, could respond. A 5min 12sec 25th mile made any speculation that either of them might get back to the Scot.

Markova finished second in

2hr 28min 18sec and Ondieki, third in 2hr 28min 53sec. Samuelson faded to sixth place in 2hr 33min 48sec.

In her topknot and predominantly orange attire, McColgan stood out in the mass field in every sense. She profited well from the experience, both in terms of reassuring herself that she may achieve her wish in challenging Ingrid Kristiansen and Grete Waitz for recognition as the greatest track and road runner, and, in terms of cash. Her prize money, time performance bonus money and Mercedes car for victory added up to \$75,000.

She said that at no stage during the race did she feel any discomfort and confirmed that, despite her victory here, she would concentrate on the 10,000 metres at the Olympic Games at Barcelona next year.

RESULTS: Men: 1. S. Garcia (Mex), 2hr 28min 28sec; 2. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 3. J. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 4. P. Maher (Can), 2hr 33min 48sec; 5. J. P. Rie (Mex), 2hr 33min 48sec; 6. R. Wilson (NZ), 2hr 33min 48sec; 7. D. Bates (GB), 2hr 33min 48sec; 8. J. P. Rie (Mex), 2hr 33min 48sec; 9. J. P. Rie (Mex), 2hr 33min 48sec; 10. J. P. Rie (Mex), 2hr 33min 48sec; 11. E. McColgan (GB), 2hr 27min 23sec; 12. O. Markova (USSR), 2hr 28min 18sec; 13. L. Ondieki (Ken), 2hr 28min 53sec; 14. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 15. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 16. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 17. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 18. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 19. A. Samuelson (Swe), 2hr 33min 48sec; 20. C. De Oliveira (Braz), 2hr 33min 48sec.

Castle stretched to the limit

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT



Tired but triumphant: Castle wins Telford final

ANDREW Castle became British national tennis champion for the third time in Telford yesterday. The No. 2 seed forsook the placards and such pandemonium the previous year to beat Sean Cole, the week's surprise package, 7-6, 2-6, 10-8 in three hours and ten minutes. But he needed five match points to finish off the British No. 12, the first and last eight games apart.

Cole, at the age of 25, the youngest of the four singles finalists in the Volkswagen national championships, had already advertised his durability in beating Jeremy Bates, the top seed in the quarter-final. Yesterday, in defeat he showed the same aggression and confidence, particularly on the big points, which makes his lowly ranking of 566 all the more puzzling.

Even at the finish, when he overhit a backhand volley, it was Cole, not Castle, calling the tune. "I never thought I would lose even when I was match point down," he said. That the more experienced Castle pocketed the winner's cheque for £9,000 was due mainly to his ability to get out of trouble on his service.

Having taken the first set tie-break 7-2, Castle went off the boil in the second, losing his service three times in succession as Cole, with a bristling two-handed backhand, levelled the match after an hour and 47 minutes.

Castle noticeably increased the tempo earlier in the third and at 5-2, seemed to have the match well won. He had three match points two games later but could convert none of them and wavered momentarily. "I was getting a little tired and a bit nervous because I wanted to win this badly. But I still felt I was the boss," Castle said.

Both men now return to the grind of the tour. Castle taking an early morning flight to Japan and Cole, his confidence and bank balance revived, heading for New Zealand. Castle was unlucky not to get a wild card into the Diet Pepsi Challenge, which begins today in Birmingham.

Whether, after seeing Jo Durie win her sixth title by outplaying Sara Gomer for the second year, British tennis can take comfort from the week is another matter. Durie is 31, Castle 28 next week and neither is getting younger. Maybe Cole will prove to be that very English sporting curiosity, the late developer.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: S. Cole (Surry) bt J. Bates (Surry), 6-3, 6-4; Semi-finals: A. Castle (Som) bt M. Petchey (Essex), 6-4, 6-3; Cole bt A. Foster (Staffs), 6-3, 6-4; Final: Castle bt Cole, 7-6, 2-6, 10-8. Doubles: Semi-finals: M. Fulwood (Derby) and D. Sapsford (Surry) bt D. Bates (Essex) and M. Petchey (Essex), 6-3, 6-4; A. Foster (Staffs) and C. Blewett (Kent), 6-4, 7-6. Women's singles: Final: J. Durie (Avon) bt S. Gomer (Devon), 6-2, 6-2. Doubles: Semi-finals: Gomer and V. Lake (Devon) bt B. Barnes (Bed) and J. Wood (Wilt), 6-1, 6-4; 7-6. Final: Durie and C. Wood (Sussex) bt Gomer and Lake, 6-4, 6-2.

IN BRIEF

Record falls to Meyer

ELANA Meyer, the South African runner, broke Ingrid Kristiansen's world 15 kilometres record by 20 seconds in Cape Town on Saturday. Meyer recorded 46min 57sec.

CRICKET: Arjuna Ranatunga, who missed the England tour last summer on disciplinary grounds, has been included in Sri Lanka's party to tour Pakistan next month.

MOTOR RACING: David Brabham, of Britain, and Teo Fabi, of Italy, drove a Jaguar XJR14 to victory in yesterday's final 500-mile race, but Kazuyoshi Hoshino and Toshio Suzuki, of Japan, won the seven-leg All Japan Sports Prototype Car championship in Tokyo.

REAL TENNIS: Great Britain took a 2-1 lead against Australia in the final of the Bathurst Cup amateur event in Melbourne when Julian Snow and James Male beat Mike Happell and Chris Sievers in straight sets.

CYCLING: Manfred Krikkie, the manager of PDM, has described as "indecent" a suggestion by the Dutch cycling federation, quoted in the *Volkscourier* newspaper, that the Dutch team's riders may have used drugs and a drug-testing agent during this year's Tour de France.

□ Jeannie Longo broke her 5km indoor world record by more than five seconds, clocking 6min 17.60sec in Grenoble.

CRICKET

S Africa's exile to end in India

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's selectors were last night choosing a squad of 14 which will fly to India this week for three one-day international matches. Next Sunday, South Africa's 21-year isolation from official international cricket will end when their players walk out at Eden Gardens, Calcutta. Even before South Africa were ostracised by the International Cricket Council, they had never played against India.

The decision to accept "in principle" the invitation — made only last week by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) — was announced after an emergency meeting here yesterday of the newly-formed United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA).

Geoff Dakin, the UCBSA president, said some details remained to be finalised, particularly financial arrangements, but that, all being well, the team would leave by Wednesday. The names of the players would be announced today.

The venues for the other two games were not disclosed, but they are expected to be Delhi and Jaipur. It was also not immediately clear if the team

would be called the Springboks, a name which, because of its hitherto all-white connotation, is arousing some controversy, or simply a South African XI. Whatever its title, it will be playing in the new UCBSA colours of green, gold and navy blue.

The decision to accept the Indian invitation was not taken lightly. With the ink on the unity agreement barely dry, UCBSA has been careful not to be seen to be rushing into international cricket.

The UCBSA also decided to accept in principle an application from the Pakistan Cricket Board to host the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand's assistance.

To accommodate the South Africans, India may have to put back their tour of Australia, due to start on November 15, by a week. India yesterday announced their squad of 16 for the Australian tour, and the team to face South Africa is likely to be chosen from this group.

SQUAD: At Johannesburg (captain), R. J. Ratna (vice-captain), N. S. Bhatia, K. S. Chatterjee, S. V. Manjunath, S. R. Tendulkar, D. B. Vengalwar, P. K. Arora, S. Ganguly, K. S. Menon, S. Prasad, V. V. Kohli, M. P. Maheshwari, S. L. V. Raju, J. Srinath, S. Sundar.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hapless Kumuls denied their due

Humberside XIII 16
Papua New Guinea 14

By KEITH MACKLIN

NEARLY four minutes of injury time had gone at the Boulevard when, with everyone on the ground prepared to give generous cheers for Papua New Guinea's first tries and first victory, luck deserted the hapless touring team.

Two brilliant tries in the last five minutes of normal time had enabled the Kumuls to come back from 12-4 down to a 14-12 lead, and no one, not even the Humberside players, would have denied them the spoils, and much-needed filip for the British Coal international at Wigan next Saturday.

However, a cruel twist of fate was awaiting. As the timekeepers checked their watches deep into injury time, the Humberside captain, Sharp, made a break down the left. He hurled a pass inside which could have gone anywhere. It hit the outstretched arm of a Papuan defender and rebounded to the Humberside winger, Sodje, who had an unopposed path to the

line. Before that dramatic closing sequence the tourists had seemed doomed to another dejecting defeat as potentially exciting attacking moves ended in careless passes and fumbles.

At half-time, Humberside had pulled ahead at 12-4 with a try by Jackson and one from Paul Fletcher. Fletcher and Eastwood kicked goals.

The second half followed a tedious course with both sides making elementary errors, until the game came to vibrant life in the closing minutes. At last the birds of paradise showed their plumage.

As the centre, Wagambie, went 35 metres on a side-stepping run to touch down under the posts, Boge adding the goal. There were just three minutes left and the inspired touring team, heads high at last, scored a second brilliant try, Ham diving over in the corner.

SCORERS: Humberside: Tries: Jackson, P. Fletcher, Sodje. Goals: N. Fletcher, Eastwood. Papua New Guinea: Tries: Wagambie, Boge. Goals: Boge (2).

HUMBERSIDE XIII: M. Fletcher, P. Eastwood, R. Boge, J. McCarty, R. Bode, W. Portlock, D. Bishop, A. Darnell, L. Jackson, P. Vennart, P. Fletcher, J. Sharp, D. Budge.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: W. Wagambie, J. Kaurou, P. Boge, R. Wagambie, C. Ham, S. Hamu, N. Lagne, J. Lagne, D. Mol, K. Nagein, J. Nagein, M. Pananga, J. Gope.

Referee: J. Holworth (Kippax).

St Helens remain top as two leaders falter

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE top two sides in the Stones Bitter Championship both faltered yesterday, but St Helens stay top despite their 20-12 defeat at Wakefield. Michael Jackson demonstrated why he has been selected for the Great Britain squad with a spectacular solo try for Trinity.

Widnes crashed 28-14 in a snowstorm at Halifax, where both sides played entertaining rugby despite the dreadful conditions. Devereux scored two tries for Widnes but Halifax put the issue beyond doubt with tries by Austin and Southernwood.

Salford maintained their recent improvement with a 27-22 win at Featherstone, but they had to fight off a rally inspired

by Fox, their scrum half.

Warrington, who have recently shown signs of putting in a bid for the championship, lost 10-8 to Swinton. At Odsal, in the league game between the Yorkshire cup finalists, Bradford shire cup finalists, Bradford Northern seemed likely to gain revenge for their cup defeat when a splendid try by Fairbank gave them the lead. However, a typical piece of wizardry by Steadman, ending in a solo try, turned the game Castleford's way.

In the Regal Trophy preliminary round games, Sheffield Eagles had a comfortable victory over Scarborough Pirates and Workington Town beat the gallant but outclassed amateurs, Saddleworth Rangers.

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